

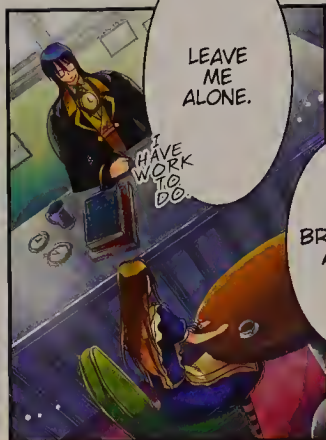
The cover art features a young man with dark hair and a red coat, and a young woman with long blonde hair and a blue dress, both looking at each other. They are surrounded by playing cards, hearts, and roses. The background is a warm, orange-red sky. The title 'Alice in the Country of Clover' is in a green circular frame at the top right. The vertical title 'ACE OF HEARTS' is on the right side. The story and art credits are at the bottom left.

Alice
IN THE
COUNTRY OF
Clover

ACE OF HEARTS

STORY: QuinRose

ART: Mamenosuke Fujimaru



LEAVE
ME
ALONE.

I HAVE
WORK
TO
DO.

AND
BROODING
AGAIN,
HUH?

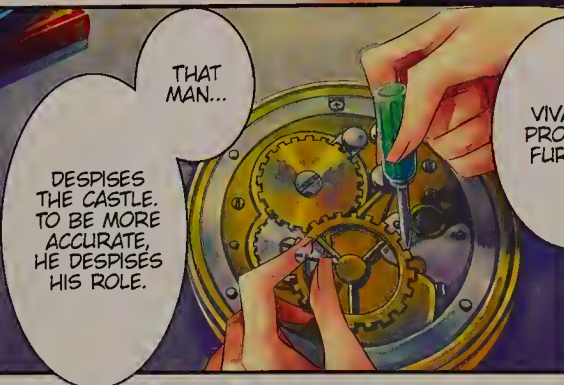
CLOCKMAKER
JULIUS MONREY



DRINKING
COFFEE
AGAIN?

YES.

COUNTRY
OF
HEARTS:
CLOCK
TOWER.



THAT
MAN...

DESPISES
THE CASTLE.
TO BE MORE
ACCURATE,
HE DESPISES
HIS ROLE.



BUT
I'M
BORED,
JULIUS.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
ACE ISN'T
BACK
YET.

VIVALDI
ORDERED
ALICE TO PICK
UP ACE.



...



SIGH...

I WISH
YOU
WOULDN'T
DRAG ME
INTO YOUR
DRAMA.

DRAMA?

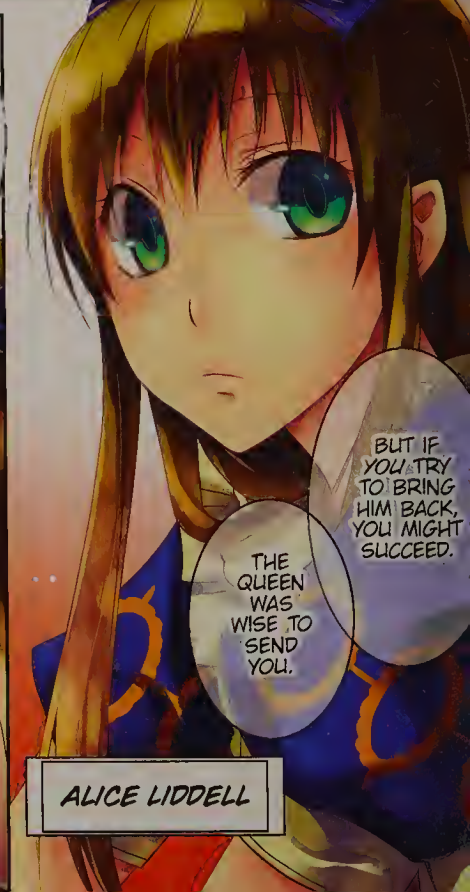
YOU
CAN'T BE
TALKING
TO ME.

YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE
HERE!



I
DOUBT
IT.

ACE
WOULDN'T
LISTEN TO
SOMEONE
LIKE ME.



BUT IF
YOU TRY
TO BRING
HIM BACK,
YOU MIGHT
SUCCEED.

THE
QUEEN
WAS
WISE TO
SEND
YOU.

ALICE LIDDELL





VIVALDI'S
LOOKING
FOR YOU.

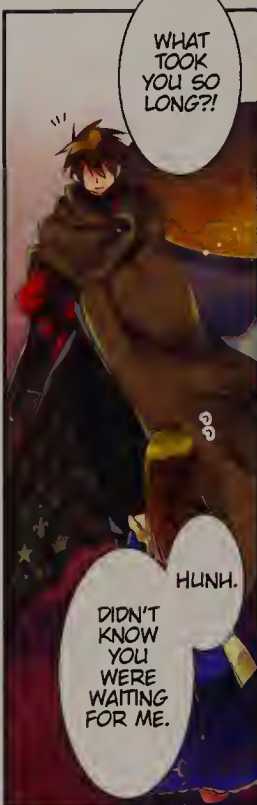
I KNOW
YOU DON'T
LIKE IT, BUT
PLEASE
COME BACK
TO THE
CASTLE
WITH ME.



I'M NOT
INVITING
YOU--
VIVALDI'S
ORDERING
YOU.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.
I DON'T
WANNA.

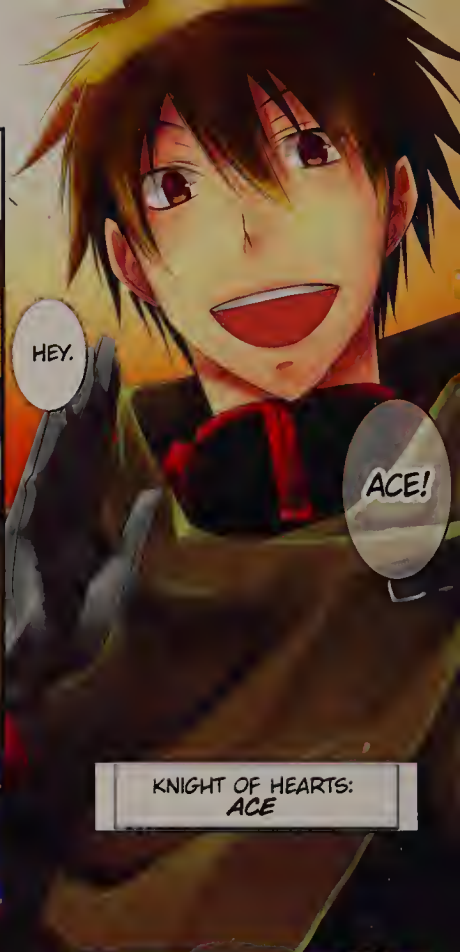
BUT AS
A KNIGHT,
I CAN'T
REFUSE AN
INVITATION
FROM A
LADY
LIKE YOU.
HMM...



WHAT
TOOK
YOU SO
LONG?!

HUHH.

DIDN'T
KNOW
YOU
WERE
WAITING
FOR ME.



HEY.

ACE!

KNIGHT OF HEARTS:
ACE



OBVI-
OUSLY.

OKAY,
ALICE.

LEAD
THE
WAY!



I'LL
PUT
EM
HERE.

THANK
YOU.

YOU
GOT
ME.

I FINISHED
MY WORK
HERE, AND
I GUESS
I SHOULD
GO TO THE
CASTLE
ONCE IN
A WHILE.



AND
SORRY I
BOTHERED
YOU,
JULIUS.

I'LL
BE
BACK.

THAT
WON'T
BE
NECES-
SARY.



SEE
YOU,
JULIUS.

TELL ME
WHEN YOU
NEED ME
AGAIN.

I
WILL.



FLINCH

I DON'T WANT YOUR HELP! DON'T TOUCH THAT!



HUH? OH...

Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL.



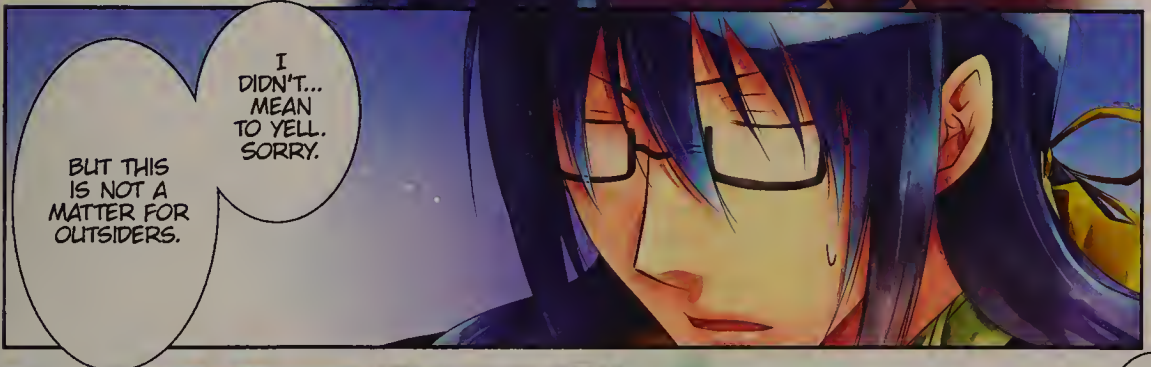
I'LL BE SERIOUS AND PRODUCTIVE, JUST LIKE YOU.



I DON'T HAVE DRAMA!

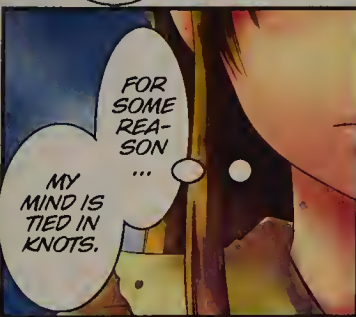
AND I'M NOT HERE TO BUG YOU. I'LL HELP YOU UNTIL ACE COMES BACK!

EXCUSE ME?



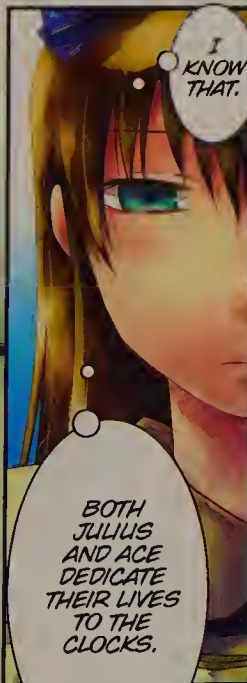
I DIDN'T... MEAN TO YELL. SORRY.

BUT THIS IS NOT A MATTER FOR OUTSIDERS.



FOR SOME REASON ...

MY MIND IS TIED IN KNOTS.

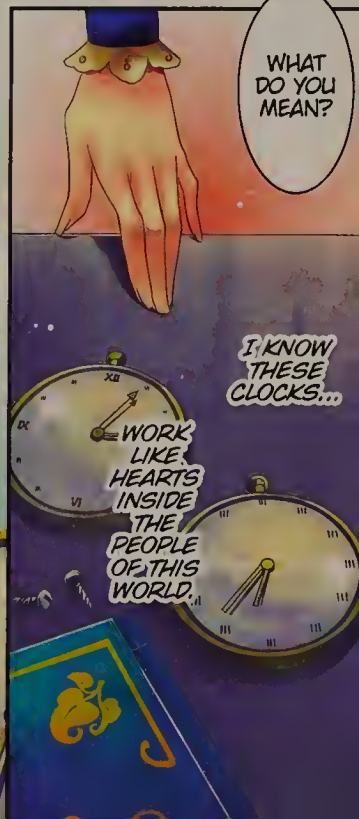


I KNOW THAT.

BOTH JULIUS AND ACE DEDICATE THEIR LIVES TO THE CLOCKS.

IF A CLOCK BREAKS, IT GETS TAKEN TO JULIUS.

AFTER HE FIXES IT, THE CLOCK STARTS TICKING AGAIN... BUT AS A NEW PERSON.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I KNOW THESE CLOCKS...

WORK LIKE HEARTS INSIDE THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD.



WHOA.

ALICE IS HERE.

Alice in the Country of Clover
~Ace of Hearts~



Mamenosuke Fujimaru

藤丸 豆ノ介



AREN'T YOU ON AN ERRAND FOR THE QUEEN?

HURRY UP AND LEAVE.

JEEZ.

WHAT A CRANK.

YUP.



PLEASE, JULIUS?

YOU'RE GONNA GROW MOLD IF YOU STAY PENNED UP IN HERE.

I WILL NOT.



NOT INTERESTED!

THAT REMINDS ME! DO YOU WANNA GO ON A PICNIC SOON, JUST THE THREE OF US?

SOUNDS COOL.



WE HAD OUR FUN IN THE CLOCK TOWER.

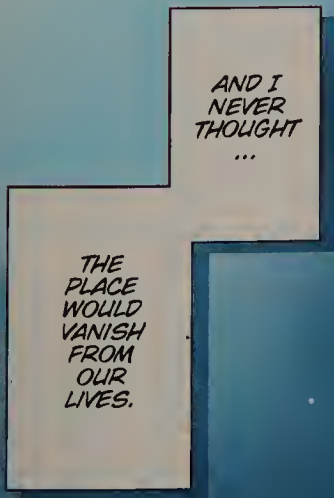
SOME-TIMES AT JULIUS' EXPENSE.

GET OUT OF MY OFFICE!

KACHUNK

WE'RE ALL GOING ON A PICNIC NEXT TIME!

I PROMISE YOU.



AND I NEVER THOUGHT ...

THE PLACE WOULD VANISH FROM OUR LIVES.

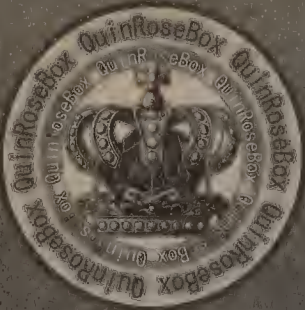


YOU'RE A BAD FRIEND.

BUT SO AM I.

HE'S FUN TO TEASE. AND YOU'RE GOOD AT IT, ALICE.

BUT AT THE TIME, I WASN'T REFLECTING ON THE REAL MEANING OF ACE STAYING THERE.



QuinRoseBox



QuinRoseBox

Alice IN THE COUNTRY OF Clover

ACE OF HEARTS



story by **QuinRose**

art by **Mamemosuke Fujimaru**

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ALICE IN THE COUNTRY OF CLOVER: ACE OF HEARTS

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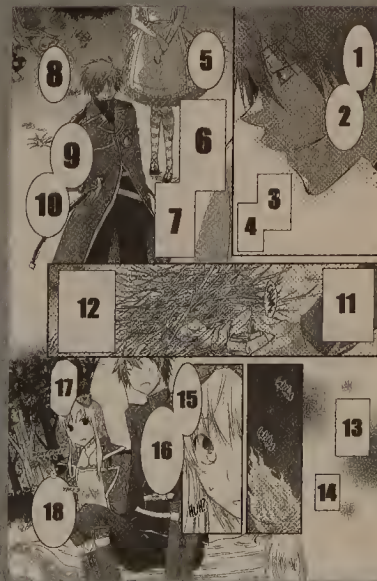
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



FOLLOW US ONLINE: www.gomanga.com

READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



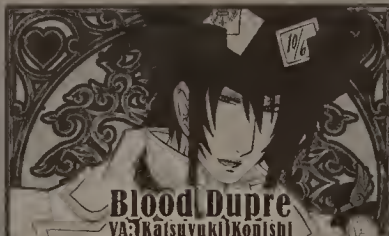
Alice in Country of Hearts

Character Information



Elliot March
VA: Tsuguo Mogami

The No. 2 of the Hatter Family and Blood's right-hand man, Elliot is an ex-criminal and an escaped convict. Very short-tempered, he used to be a "very bad guy" who shot before asking questions. After partnering up with Blood, he rounded out and changed to a "slightly bad guy" who thinks for about three seconds before shooting. In his mind, this is a vast improvement.



Blood Dupre
VA: Katsuyuki Konishi

The dangerous leader of the crime syndicate known as the Hatter Family. Since he enjoys plotting more than working directly, he controls everything from the shadows. He's incredibly smart, but due to his temperamental moods and his desire to keep things "interesting," he often digs his own grave in his secret plans.



Alice Liddell
VA: Rie Kugimiya

She grew up to be a responsible young woman after losing her mother early, but Alice still carries a complex toward her older sister. She respects her older sister very much, but is frustrated about always being compared to her. Since her first love fell for her older sister, she has no confidence in herself when it comes to romance.



Vivaldi
VA: Yuuko Kaida

Ruthless and cruel, the Queen of Hearts is an arrogant beauty with a wild temper. She's enemies with the Hatter and Gowland. Impatient at heart, Vivaldi takes her fury out on everyone around her including her subordinates, whom she considers pawns. Anyone not working for her doesn't even register as existing.



Tweedle Dum
VA: Jun Fukuyama

The second "Bloody Twin" and a dead ringer for his brother—in both appearance and personality. As they often change places, it's uncertain which one is the older twin.



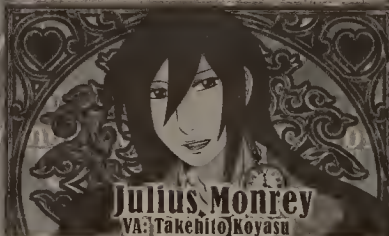
Tweedle Dee
VA: Jun Fukuyama

Gatekeeper of the Hatter territory, and one of the dark, sneaky twins. They sometimes show an innocent side, but they usually have a malicious agenda. Also known as the "Bloody Twins" due to their unsavory activities.



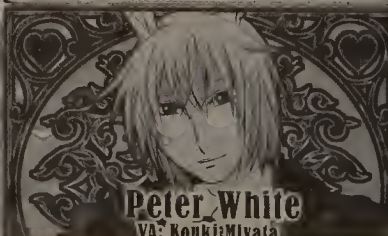
Ace
VA: Daisuke Hirakawa

The knight of Hearts and the ex-subordinate of Vivaldi. He's left the castle and is currently wandering. He's a very unlucky and unfortunate man, yet remains strangely positive, thus he tends to plow forward and make mistakes that only worsen his situation. He's one of the few friends of the clockmaker, Julius.



Julius Monrey
VA: Takehito Koyasu

The clockmaker, a gloomy machine expert who easily falls into depression. He lives in the Clock Tower and doesn't get out much. He always thinks of everything in the most negative way and tends to distrust people, but he gets along with Ace. He had some part in the imprisonment of the March Hare, Elliot, and is thus the target of Elliot's hatred.



Peter White
VA: Kouki Miyata

Don't be fooled by the cute ears—Peter is the dangerous guide who dragged Alice to Wonderland in the first place. He claims to always be worried about the time, despite having a strange grasp on it. Rumors say his heart is as black as his hair is white.



Nightmare
VA: Tomokazu Sugita

A sickly nightmare. He appears in Alice's dream, sometimes to guide her—and other times, to misguide her.



Mary Gowland
VA: Kenyu Horiuchi

The owner of the Amusement Park. He hides his hated first name, Mary, but pretty much everyone already knows it. His full name is a play on words that sounds like "Merry Go Round" when said quickly. If his musical talent was given a numerical value, it would be closer to negatives than zero.



Boris Airay
VA: Noriaki Sugiyama

A riddle-loving cat with a signature smirk. He sometimes gives hints to his riddles, but the hints usually just cause more confusion. He also has a tendency to pose questions and never answer them.



- STORY -

This is a love adventure game. It is based on *Alice in Wonderland*, but evolves into a completely different story.

The main character is far from a romantic. In fact, she's especially sick of love relationships.

She's pulled (against her will) into the dangerous Country of Hearts, which is not as peaceful as the name makes it sound. The Hatters are a mafia family and even the employees of the Amusement Park carry weapons.

The leaders of the three domains are constantly trying to kill each other. Many of the skirmishes are the result of territory grabs by three major powers trying to control more land: the Hatter, the Queen of Hearts, and Gowland.

After drinking some strange medicine (again, against her will), the main character is unable to return to her world. She quickly decides that she's trapped in a dream and allows herself to enjoy(?) the extraordinary experience she's been thrown into.

What territory will she stay with and who will she interact with to get herself home?
And will this girl, so jaded about love, fall into a relationship she doesn't expect?



AND THIS GUY!

ACE THE KNIGHT HELPS JULIUS THE CLOCK-MAKER WITH HIS WORK.

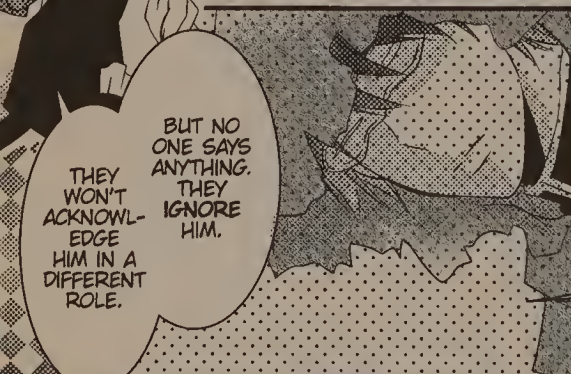


THEIR BROKEN CLOCK IS BROUGHT TO JULIUS.

WHEN HE FIXES A CLOCK, A NEW PERSON APPEARS.

BUT THEY DON'T REMEMBER THE LIFE THEY LIVED BEFORE.

WHEN SOMEONE IN THIS WORLD DIES...



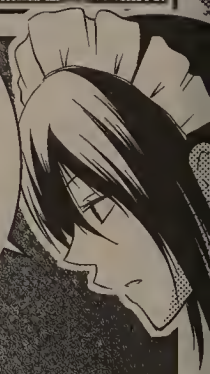
THEY WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE HIM IN A DIFFERENT ROLE.

BUT NO ONE SAYS ANYTHING. THEY IGNORE HIM.

IT'S PRETTY WEAK. YOU CAN TELL IT'S HIM, RIGHT?

HE WEARS A DISGUISE.

BUT SINCE THAT'S NOT PART OF HIS ROLE AS THE "KNIGHT OF HEARTS"...



CAMEOS.

Please read **Crimson Empire!**

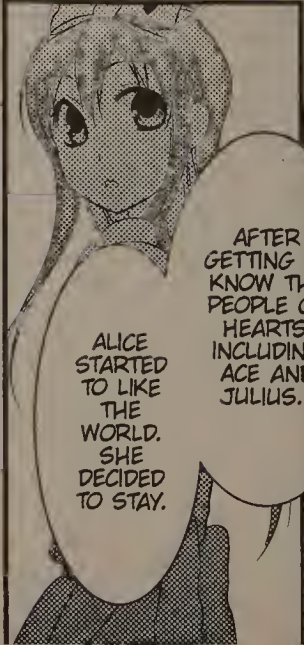
UH... WHO ARE YOU GUYS?



A LOT OF THINGS HAVE CHANGED ...

THERE WAS A SUDDEN "MOVE" AFTER THAT--THE AMUSEMENT PARK AND THE CLOCK TOWER DISAPPEARED, REPLACED BY THE FOREST AND THE TOWER OF CLOVER.

BUT YOU'LL FIND OUT WHEN YOU READ THE STORY!



AFTER GETTING TO KNOW THE PEOPLE OF HEARTS, INCLUDING ACE AND JULIUS...

ALICE STARTED TO LIKE THE WORLD. SHE DECIDED TO STAY.

IN THIS STORY, ALICE IS THE PROTAGONIST. SHE WAS FALLING ASLEEP IN HER GARDEN...

WHEN THE WHITE RABBIT, OUT OF NOWHERE, KIDNAPPED HER TO THE COUNTRY OF HEARTS.

THAT'S A CRIME.

LILLEY'S HERE TO HELP!
♡

I'M VARCHIA. THIS IS LILLEY.

WE'RE HERE TO EXPLAIN THE PREMISE OF "ALICE" TO YOU.

THE COUNTRY OF HEARTS WAS SEPARATED INTO FOUR DOMAINS: HEART CASTLE, HATTER MANSION, THE AMUSEMENT PARK, AND THE CLOCK TOWER.

IN THIS VERSION OF THE STORY, ALICE STAYED AT HEART CASTLE.

AMUSEMENT PARK

HEART CASTLE

HATTER MANSION

CLOCK TOWER

SHE DECIDED TO TAKE RESIDENCE SOMEWHERE UNTIL SHE FOUND A WAY OUT.

ALICE WANTED TO RETURN HOME, BUT SHE DIDN'T KNOW HOW. SHE WAS TRAPPED IN THE NEW WORLD.

PEOPLE ARE KEPT ALIVE BY THE CLOCKS IN THEIR CHESTS.

CLOCKS ARE IMPORTANT IN THIS WORLD, TOO.

THAT'S WHY ALL THE PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD ARE ARMED!

ALL DOMAINS EXCEPT THE CLOCK TOWER HAVE CONSTANT TERRITORIAL DISPUTES.

MIKE LILLEY.

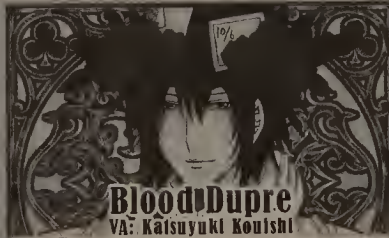
Alice in the Country of Clover

Character Information



Elliot March
VA: Tsuguo Mogami

Blood's right-hand man has a criminal past... and a temperamental present. But he's not as bad as he used to be, so that's something. Joining Blood has been good(?) for him.



Blood Dupre
VA: Katsuyuki Kouishi

The head of the mafia Hatter Family, Blood is a cunning yet moody puppet-master. Alice now has the pleasure of having him for a landlord.



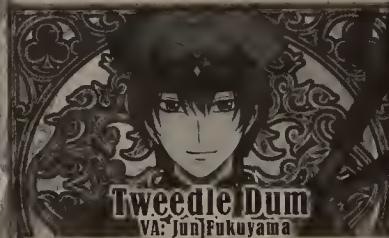
Alice Liddell
VA: Rie Kugimiya

A normal girl with a bit of a chip on her shoulder. Deciding to stay in the Wonderland she was carried to, she's adapted to her strange new lifestyle.



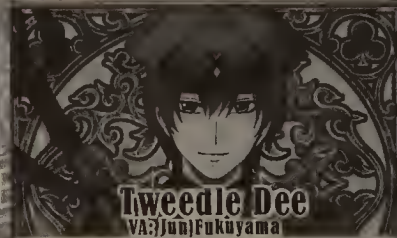
Vivaldi
VA: Yuuko Kaida

The beautiful Queen of Hearts has an unrivaled temper—which is really saying something in Wonderland. Although a picture-perfect Mad Queen, she cares for Alice as if Alice were her little sister...or a very interesting plaything.



Tweedle Dum
VA: Jun Fukuyama

The second "Bloody Twin" is equally cute and equally scary. In *Clover*, Dum can also turn into an adult.



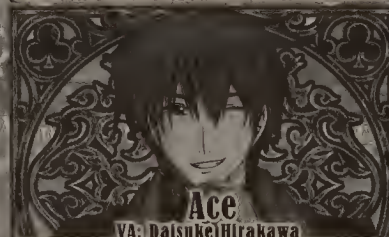
Tweedle Dee
VA: Jun Fukuyama

One of the "Bloody Twin" gatekeepers of the Hatter territory, Dee can be cute when he's not being terrifying. In *Clover*, he sometimes turns into an adult.



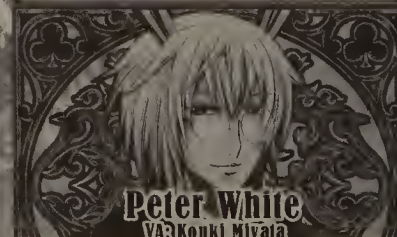
Boris Airay
VA: Noriaki Sugiyama

This riddle-loving cat has a signature smirk—and in *Clover*, a new toy. One of his favorite pastimes is giving the Sleepy Mouse a hard time.



Ace
VA: Daisuke Hirakawa

The unlucky knight of Hearts was a former subordinate of Vivaldi and is perpetually lost. Even though he's depressed to be separated from his friend and boss Julius, he stays positive and tries to overcome it with a smile. He seems like a classic nice guy... or is he?



Peter White
VA: Kouki Miyata

The Prime Minister of Heart Castle—who has rabbit ears growing out of his head—invited (kidnapped) Alice to Wonderland. He loves Alice and hates everything else. His cruel, irrational actions are disturbing, but he acts like a completely different person (rabbit?) when in the throes of his love for Alice.



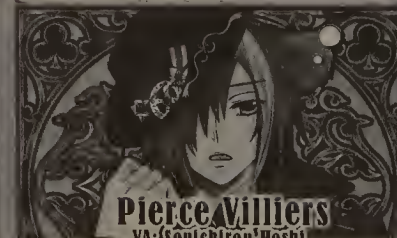
Gray Ringmarc
VA: Kazuya Nakai

Nightmare's subordinate in *Clover*. He used to have strong social ambition and considered assassinating Nightmare... but since Nightmare was such a useless boss, Gray couldn't help but feel sorry for him and ended up a dedicated assistant. He's a sound thinker with a strong work ethic. He's also highly skilled with his blades, rivaling even Ace.



Nightmare Gottschalk
VA: Tomokazu Sugita

A sickly nightmare who hates the hospital and needles. He has the power to read people's thoughts and enter dreams. Even though he likes to shut himself away in dreams, Gray drags him out to sulk from time to time. He technically holds a high position and has many subordinates, but since he can't even take care of his own health, he leaves most things to Gray.



Pierce Villiers
VA: Souichirou Hoshi

New to *Clover*, Pierce is an insomniac mouse who drinks too much coffee. He loves Nightmare (who can help him sleep) and hates Boris (who terrifies him). He dislikes Blood and Vivaldi for discarding coffee in favor of tea. He likes Elliot and Peter well enough, since rabbits aren't natural predators of mice.



- STORY -

In *Alice in the Country of Clover*, the game starts with Alice having not fallen in love, but still deciding to stay in Wonderland.

She's acquainted with all the characters from the previous game, *Alice in the Country of Hearts*.

Since love would now start from a place of friendship rather than passion with a new stranger, she can experience a different type of romance from that in the previous game. Her dynamic with the characters is different because of this friendship—characters can't always be forceful with her, and in many ways it's more comfortable to grow intimate. The relationships *between* the Ones With Duties have also become more of a factor.

In this game, the story focuses on Heart Castle. Alice attends the suited meetings (forcefully) and gets involved in various gunfights (forcefully), among other things.

Land fluctuations, sea creatures in the forest, and whispering doors—it's a game more fantastic and more eerie than the first.

Will our everywoman Alice be able to have a romantic relationship in a world devoid of common sense?

GREAT.

NOW I'VE
BEEN
FORCED
TO LIVE
IN THE
COUNTRY
OF
CLOVER.

THIS IS
THE
COUNTRY
OF
CLOVER.

REMEMBER
HOW I WAS
FORCED
INTO THE
COUNTRY
OF HEARTS
IN THE
FIRST
PLACE?

BECAUSE OF
THE LAND
SHIFT THE
PEOPLE
HERE CALL
"MOVING"...

NOW
IT'S
NIGHT
AGAIN.

THIS
ALWAYS
HAPPENS
ON YOUR
STUPID
JOURNEYS.

HEY,
EASY.

THE
FLOW OF
TIME IN
THIS
WORLD
IS ALL
SCREWY.

YEAH,
BUT...

NIGHT
COMES
RANDOMLY!
IT'S
NOT MY
FAULT.



QuinRoseBox



HE'S THE
COMPLETE
OPPOSITE
OF ME
AND MY
CYNICISM.

HE'S
ALMOST
TOO
BRIGHT
AND
CHEERY.

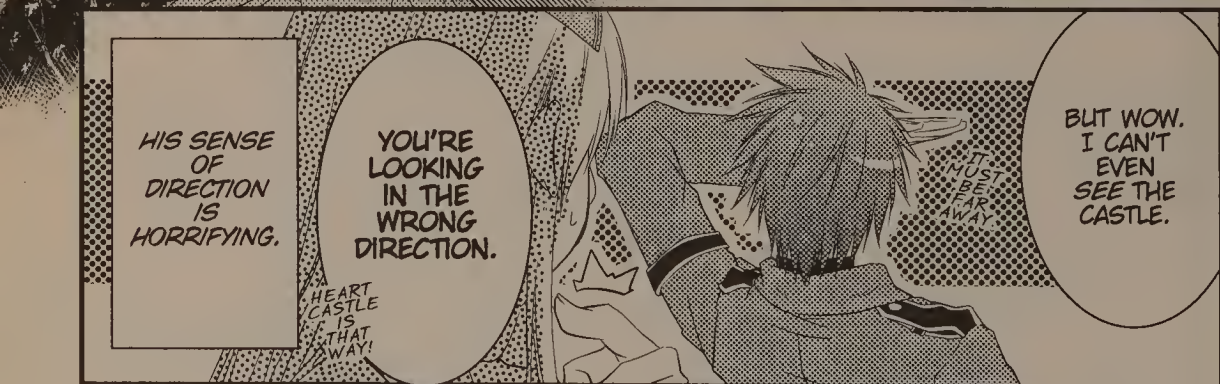


AW, C'MON.
LIFE IS
ABOUT THE
JOURNEY--
NOT THE
DESTINATION.

THE
KNIGHT
OF
HEART
CASTLE.

ACE.

DON'T
EVEN
START!



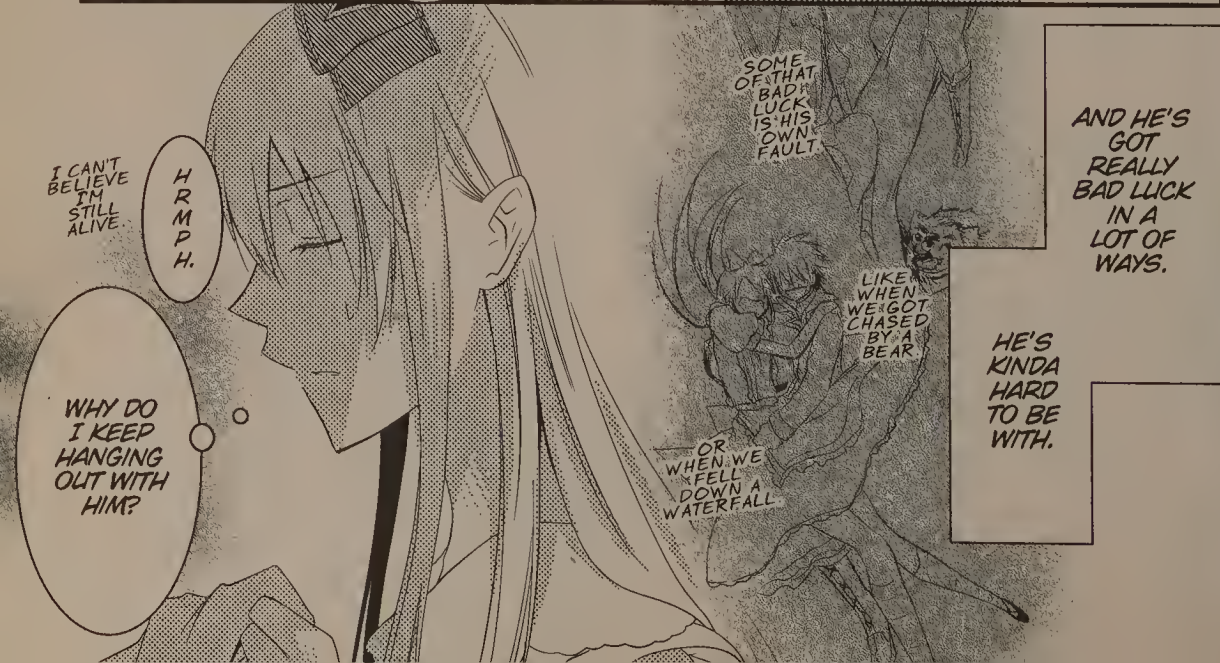
HIS SENSE
OF
DIRECTION
IS
HORRIFYING.

YOU'RE
LOOKING
IN THE
WRONG
DIRECTION.

HEART
CASTLE
IS
THAT
WAY!

IT
MUST
BE
FAR
AWAY

BUT WOW.
I CAN'T
EVEN
SEE THE
CASTLE.



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
I'M
STILL
ALIVE.

H R M P H.

WHY DO
I KEEP
HANGING
OUT WITH
HIM?

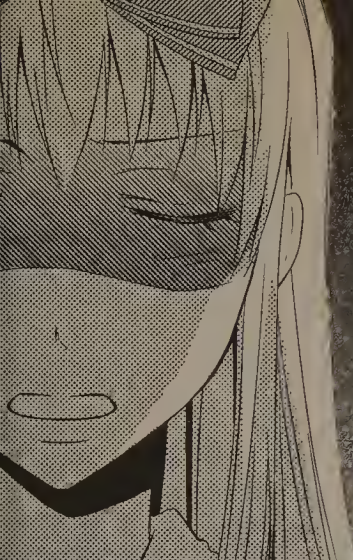
SOME
OF THAT
BAD
LUCK
IS HIS
OWN
FAULT.

LIKE
WHEN
WE GOT
CHASED
BY A
BEAR

OR
WHEN WE
FELL
DOWN A
WATERFALL

AND HE'S
GOT
REALLY
BAD LUCK
IN A
LOT OF
WAYS.

HE'S
KINDA
HARD
TO BE
WITH.



BUT...

THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
MEAN.

WE GET
A TIME
PERIOD
FOR "DAY,"
"EVENING,"
OR "NIGHT"
AT
RANDOM.

WHICH IS
WHY NOW,
IT CAN
SUDDENLY
SWITCH
FROM DAY
TO NIGHT
WITH NO
EVENING.

WE'RE
TOTALLY
LOST.

AND...
GETTING
LOST IS
ACE'S
SPECIALTY.

HA
HA
HA!

YEAH,
YOU'RE A
TROOPER.

WE'VE BEEN
WALKING FOR
BLEEP
TIME PERIODS
AND STILL
HAVEN'T HIT
HEART
CASTLE!!!



YOU'RE
GETTING
USED TO
THIS,
HUH?

UH...

IT'S EASY
TO GET
ADDICTED
TO
CAMPING.

WHAT
NOW?

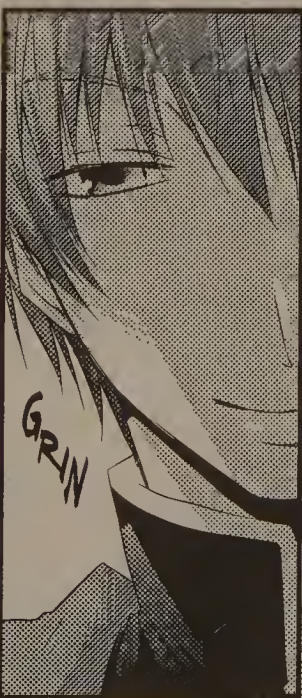
THE
OUTDOORS
ARE
GREAT.

HEH
HEH.

I'VE
HAD TO
GET USED
TO IT,
THANKS
TO YOU!

IT WASN'T
A
CHOICE

HA
HA!



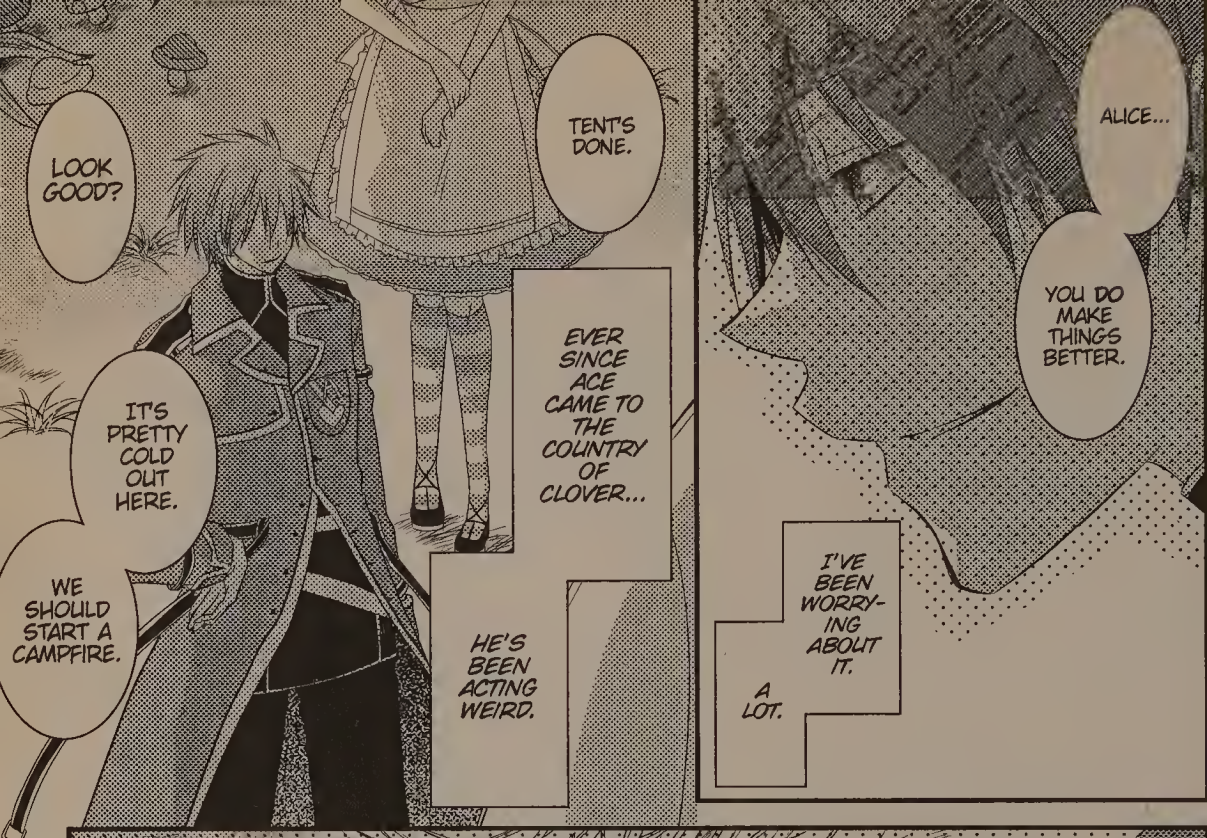
GRIN



I
GIVE
UP.

LET'S
JUST
SET UP
THE
TENT.

IT'S
DANGER-
OUS TO
WALK
AROUND
IN THE
DARK.



LOOK GOOD?

TENT'S DONE.

ALICE...

YOU DO MAKE THINGS BETTER.

IT'S PRETTY COLD OUT HERE.

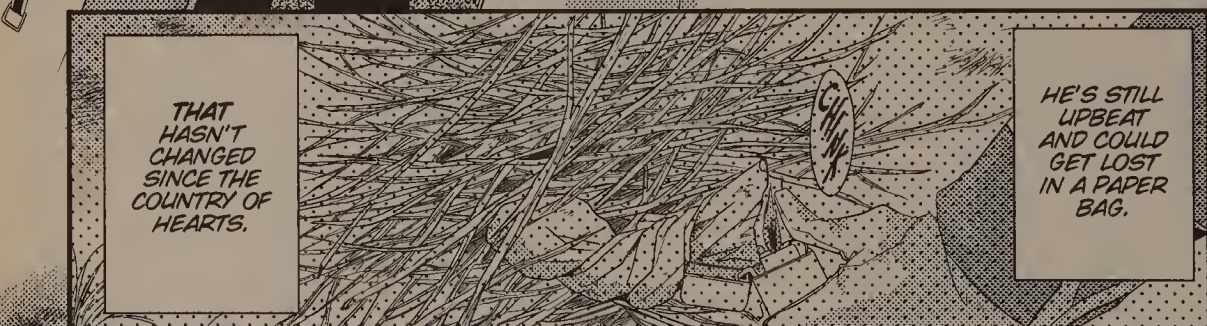
EVER SINCE ACE CAME TO THE COUNTRY OF CLOVER...

HE'S BEEN ACTING WEIRD.

I'VE BEEN WORRYING ABOUT IT.

A LOT.

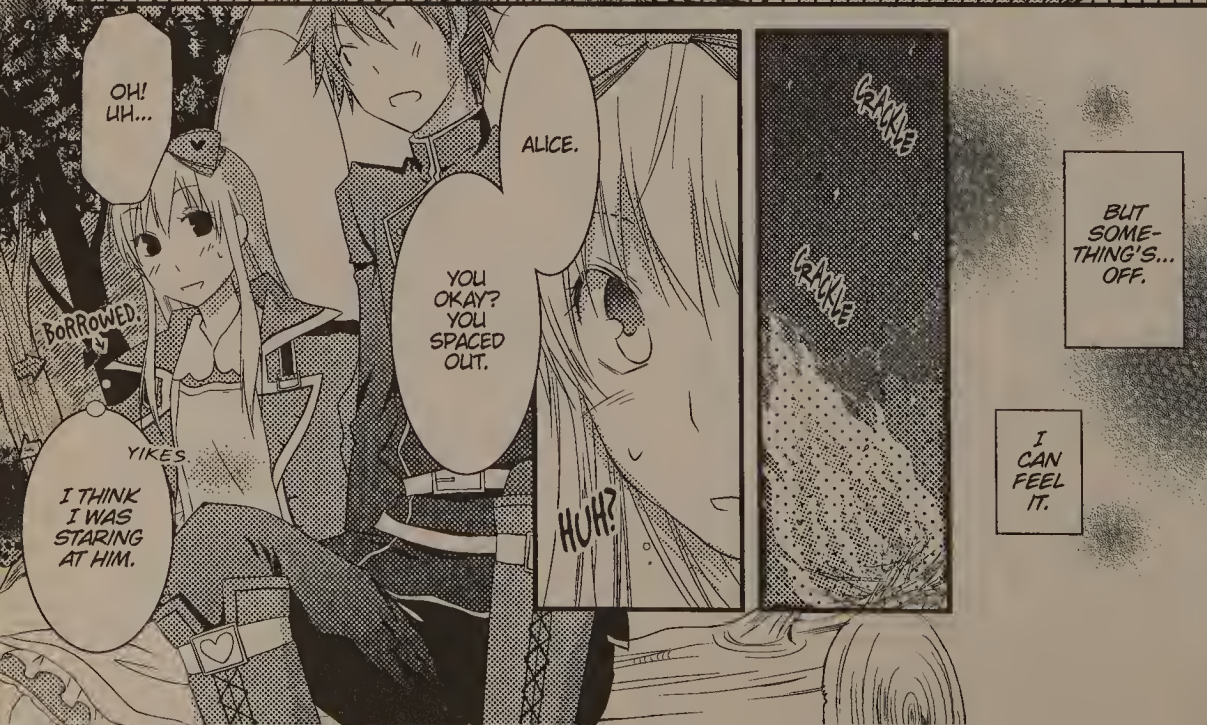
WE SHOULD START A CAMPFIRE.



THAT HASN'T CHANGED SINCE THE COUNTRY OF HEARTS.

HE'S STILL UPBEAT AND COULD GET LOST IN A PAPER BAG.

CHIRP



OH! UH...

ALICE.

YOU OKAY? YOU SPACED OUT.

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

BUT SOMETHING'S... OFF.

I CAN FEEL IT.

HUH?

BORROWED.

YIKES

I THINK I WAS STARING AT HIM.

SIGH.

I GUESS
THE LAST
PATH WE
TOOK WAS
WRONG,
AFTER ALL.

IF YOU
SIGH TOO
MUCH,
YOU'LL SIGH
OUT YOUR
HAPPINESS!

IRRITATED

YOU'RE
MAKING
IT
WORSE!

!!

YOU
KEEP
SIGHING,
ALICE.

THIS IS
WHY YOU
NEVER
GET
BETTER,
ACE!

YOU
CAN'T
LOOK
BACK--
YOU HAVE
TO LOOK
FORWARD.

HINDSIGHT
IS 20/20,
ALICE.
BUT NO
WORRIES.

TONK
TONK

I TOLD
YOU WE
SHOULD'VE
TRIED THE
OTHER
ONE.

"BETTER
THAN
ONE."
EW!

THAT
WASN'T
FUNNY.

"TWO
HEADS
ARE
HOTTER
THAN
ONE."

YOU
KNOW
WHAT
THEY
SAY...

MAN,
YOU'RE
SUCH A
BALL OF
NERVES.

WE'RE
TOGETHER,
RIGHT? SO
TRAVELING
CAN NEVER
GET THAT
BAD.

I
GUESS.
HA HA!

AND
THERE'S
SOME-
THING
ELSE.



WAIT.

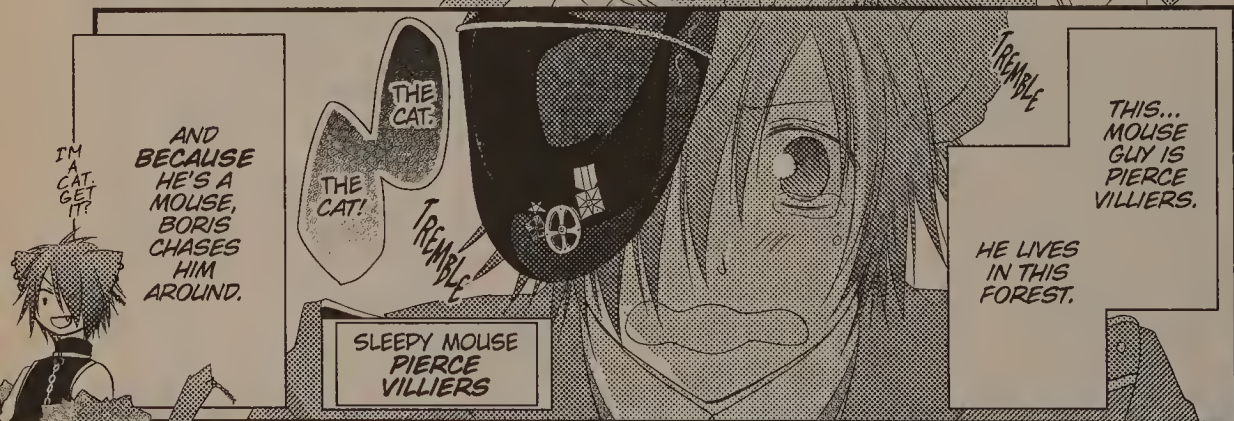
PIERCE
?!

SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

YAGH
?!!

HE'S
GONNA
EEEEEEAT
ME!!

!! > GLOMP



I'M
A CAT
GET IT?

AND
BECAUSE
HE'S A
MOUSE,
BORIS
CHASES
HIM
AROUND.

THE
CAT!

THE
CAT!

TREMBLE

SLEEPY MOUSE
PIERCE
VILLIERS

TREMBLE

THIS...
MOUSE
GUY IS
PIERCE
VILLIERS.

HE LIVES
IN THIS
FOREST.



OH.
OH!

THANK
GOOD-
NESS.

DROP

SO
COULD YOU
STOP
CLINGING
TO--

I THINK
HE
STOPPED
CHASING
YOU.

HUH
...?

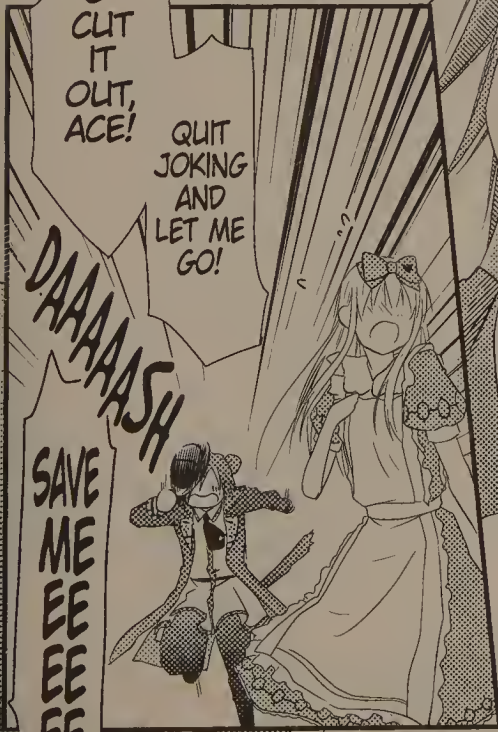
PIERCE
MAY
LOOK
HELPLESS
...

BUT HE'S
PART OF THE
HATTER
FAMILY MAFIA.
YOU CAN'T
JUDGE A
GUYIMOUSE
BY HIS
LOOKS IN
WONDERLAND.



かあああ
BUSH

!!

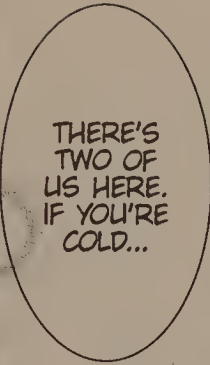


C-
CUT
IT
OUT,
ACE!

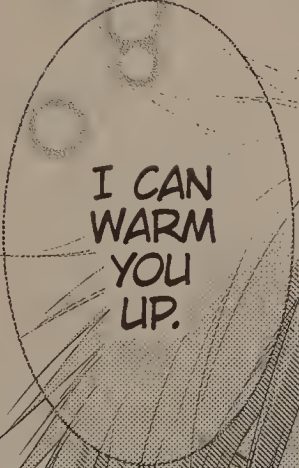
QUIT
JOKING
AND
LET ME
GO!

DAAAAASH

SAVE
ME
EE
EE
EE
EE
EE



THERE'S
TWO OF
US HERE.
IF YOU'RE
COLD...



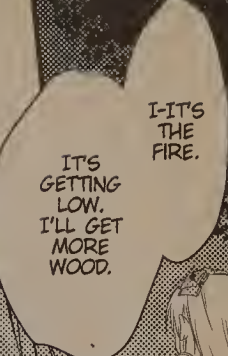
I CAN
WARM
YOU
UP.



HEH

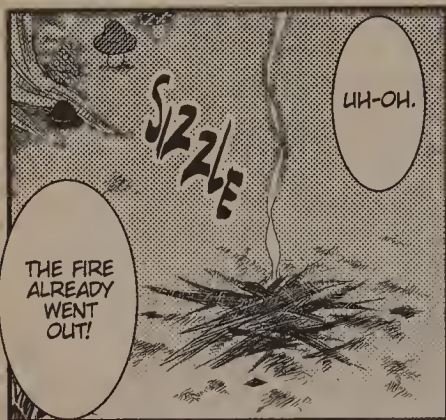
GRIP

!!



IT'S
GETTING
LOW.
I'LL GET
MORE
WOOD.

I-IT'S
THE
FIRE.



UH-OH.

THE FIRE
ALREADY
WENT
OUT!



I-I
SHOULD
GO GET
THAT
WOOD...



NEVER
MIND.



HM?

YEAH
?

TURN



I
GUESS
...

WE CAN
JUST GO
TO BED,
ALICE.



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
HOW
DIFFERENT
I ACT IN
THIS
WORLD.

I'M
ALONE
WITH A
MAN IN
A TENT.



SHFFF

...



SQUEAK!

EASY, ACE.

WHY IS THE KNIGHT HERE?!

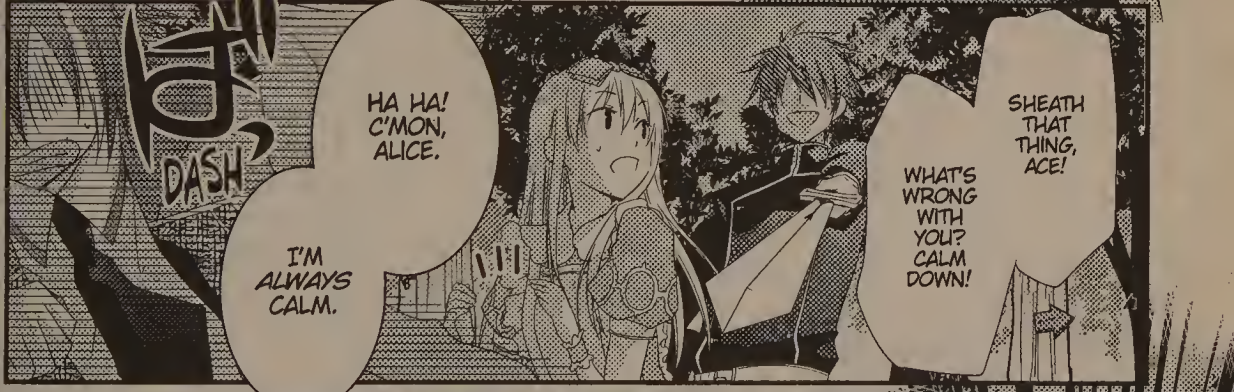
UH ...

HEY!

SQUEAKER.

BUT HANDS OFF THE GIRL.

I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO VISIT...



DASH

HA HA! C'MON, ALICE.

I'M ALWAYS CALM.

SHEATH THAT THING, ACE!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? CALM DOWN!



CRAP.

HE ESCAPED.

BECAUSE YOU SCARED HIM OFF! YOU--

I'M SCARED OF THE CAT, BUT I'M ALSO SCARED OF THE KNIGHT!

WHOA!

YAY!



I BELIEVE YOU.

I'M NOT GOOD AT LISTENING OR SITTING STILL.

ANOTHER ASSEMBLY. WHOOPEE.

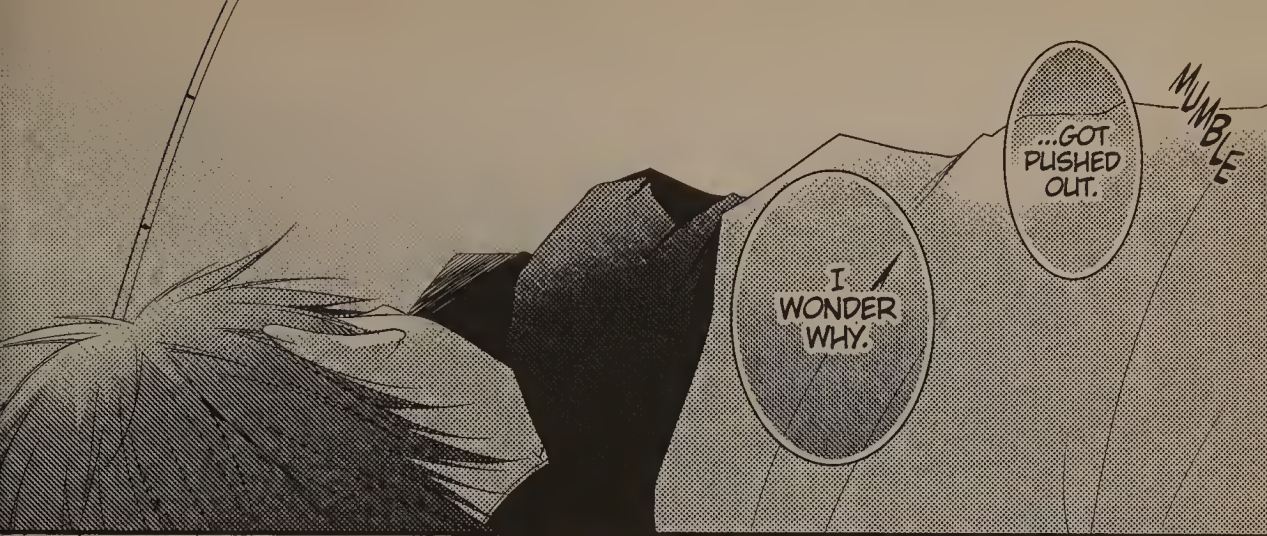
WAIT.

THERE IT IS AGAIN.

HE FEELS... DIFFERENT.

I CAN'T.

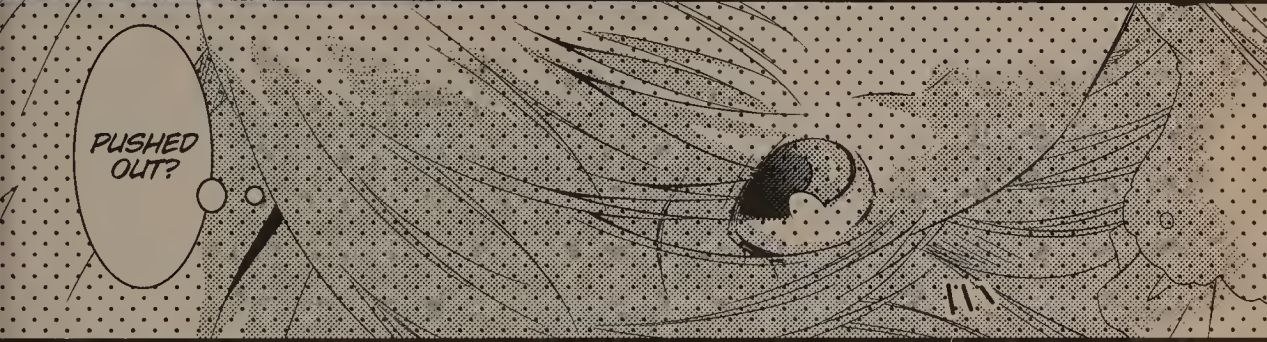
BUT IF YOU HATE THESE THINGS, WHY DON'T YOU JUST SKIP?



I
WONDER
WHY.

...GOT
PUSHED
OUT.

MUMBLE



PUSHED
OUT?



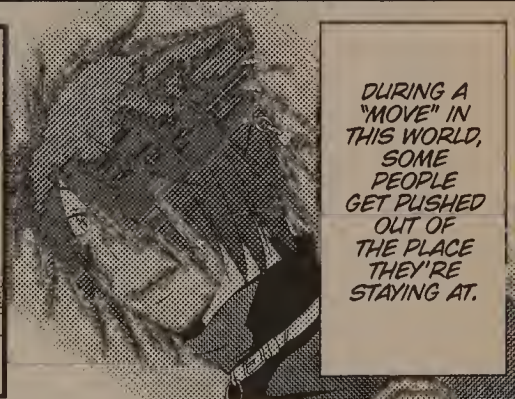
HEART
CASTLE
IS STILL
A PART
OF THE
COUNTRY
OF
CLOVER.

BUT ACE
IS THE
KNIGHT
OF
HEARTS.

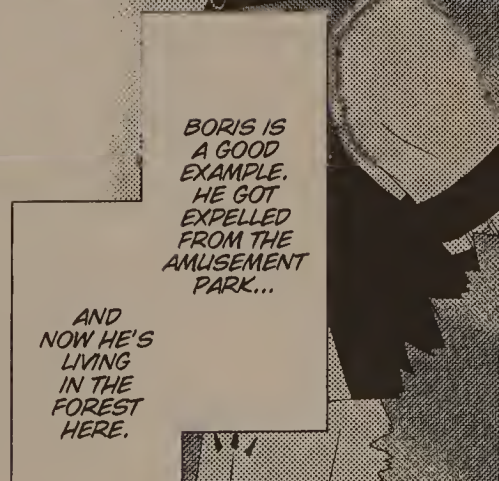


IF HE'S
TALKING
ABOUT
HIMSELF
GETTING
"PUSHED
OUT"...

HE
MUST
MEAN...



DURING A
"MOVE" IN
THIS WORLD,
SOME
PEOPLE
GET PUSHED
OUT OF
THE PLACE
THEY'RE
STAYING AT.



BORIS IS
A GOOD
EXAMPLE.
HE GOT
EXPELLED
FROM THE
AMUSEMENT
PARK...

AND
NOW HE'S
LIVING
IN THE
FOREST
HERE.

HE AVOIDED
HEART
CASTLE,
EVEN THOUGH
HE'S
SUPPOSED
TO WORK
THERE AS ITS
KNIGHT.

HE
WORKED
UNDER
JULIUS
INSTEAD.
JULIUS
LED THE
CLOCK
TOWER.

WHEN
WE WERE
IN THE
COUNTRY
OF
HEARTS...

ACE
HAS A
ROLE.

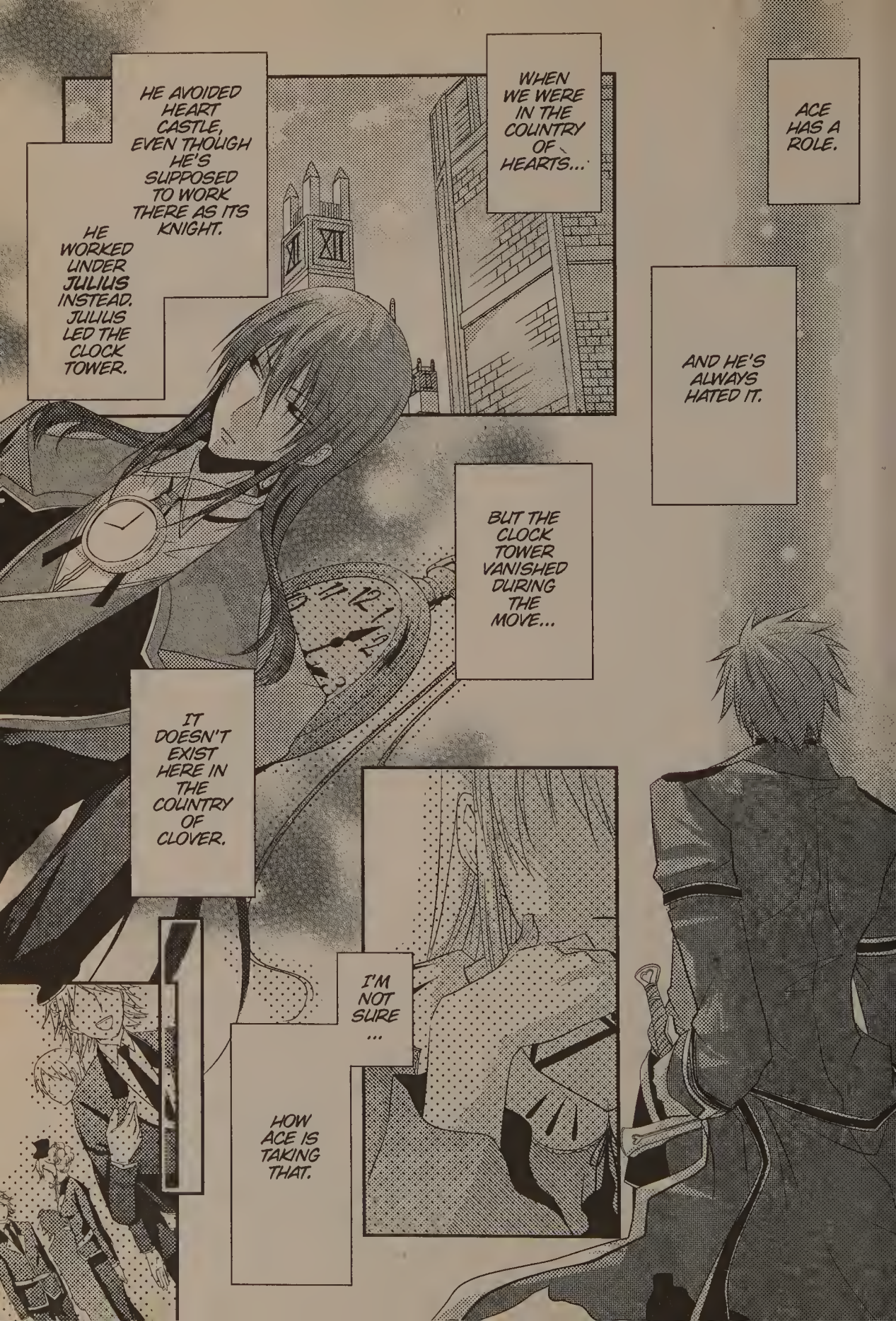
AND HE'S
ALWAYS
HATED IT.

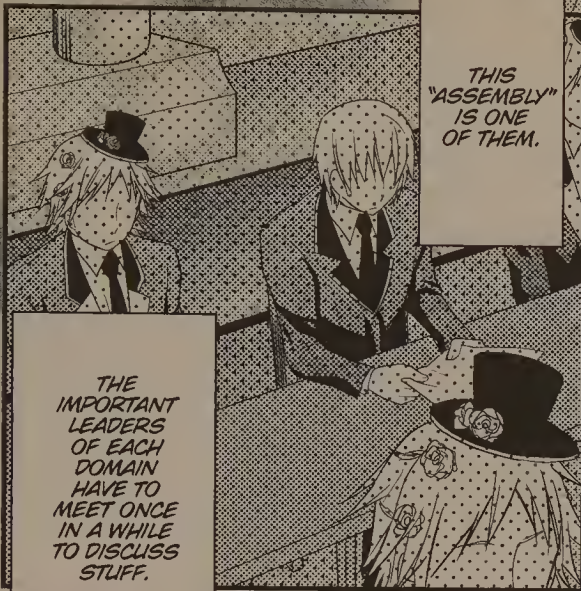
BUT THE
CLOCK
TOWER
VANISHED
DURING
THE
MOVE...

IT
DOESN'T
EXIST
HERE IN
THE
COUNTRY
OF
CLOVER.

I'M
NOT
SURE
...

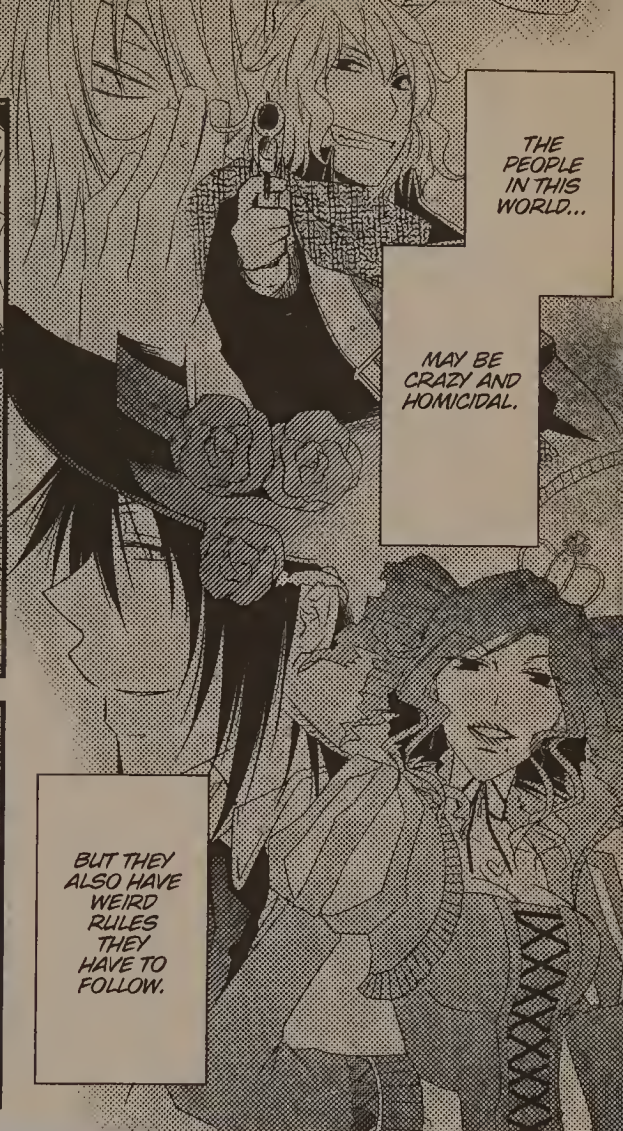
HOW
ACE IS
TAKING
THAT.





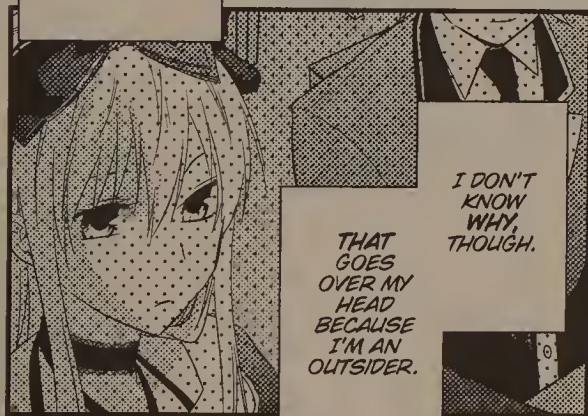
THIS
"ASSEMBLY"
IS ONE
OF THEM.

THE
IMPORTANT
LEADERS
OF EACH
DOMAIN
HAVE TO
MEET ONCE
IN A WHILE
TO DISCUSS
STUFF.



THE
PEOPLE
IN THIS
WORLD...

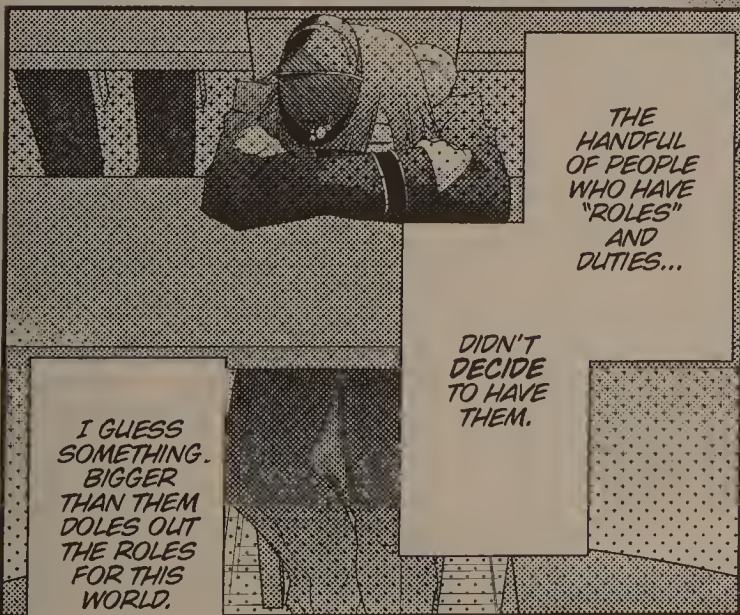
MAY BE
CRAZY AND
HOMICIDAL.



I DON'T
KNOW
WHY,
THOUGH.

THAT
GOES
OVER MY
HEAD
BECAUSE
I'M AN
OUTSIDER.

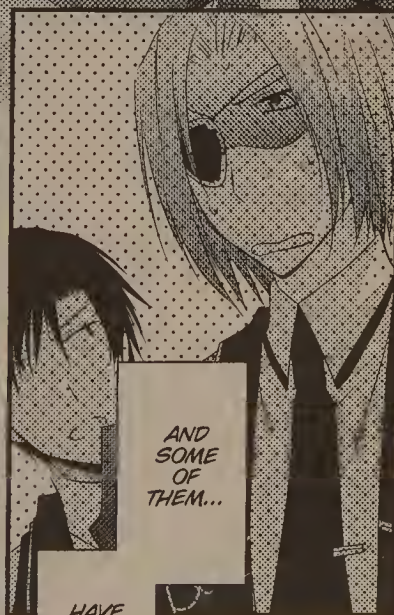
BUT THEY
ALSO HAVE
WEIRD
RULES
THEY
HAVE TO
FOLLOW.



THE
HANDFUL
OF PEOPLE
WHO HAVE
"ROLES"
AND
DUTIES...

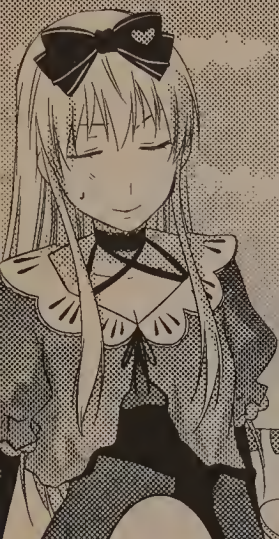
DIDN'T
DECIDE
TO HAVE
THEM.

I GUESS
SOMETHING.
BIGGER
THAN THEM
DOES OUT
THE ROLES
FOR THIS
WORLD.



AND
SOME
OF
THEM...

HAVE
"ROLES."



I GUESS
I'VE GOT
PLANS
NOW.

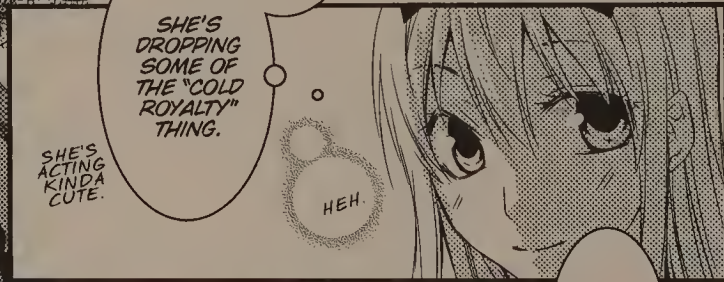


WHAT
IS
WRONG,
ALICE?

SURELY
YOU
HAVEN'T
GROWN
TIRED
ALREADY!



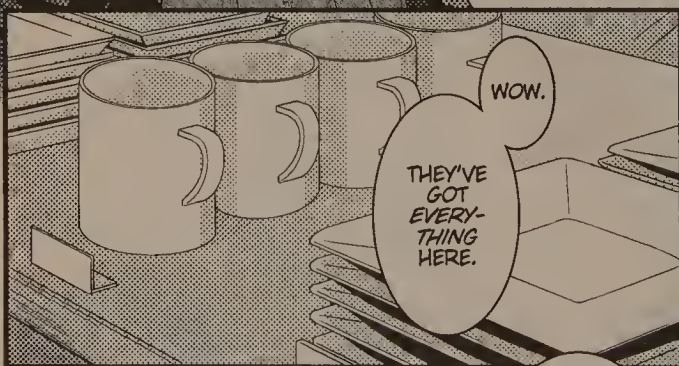
AT LEAST
VIVALDI'S
IN A
GOOD
MOOD.



SHE'S
ACTING
KINDA
CUTE.

SHE'S
DROPPING
SOME OF
THE "COLD
ROYALTY"
THING.

HEH.



WOW.

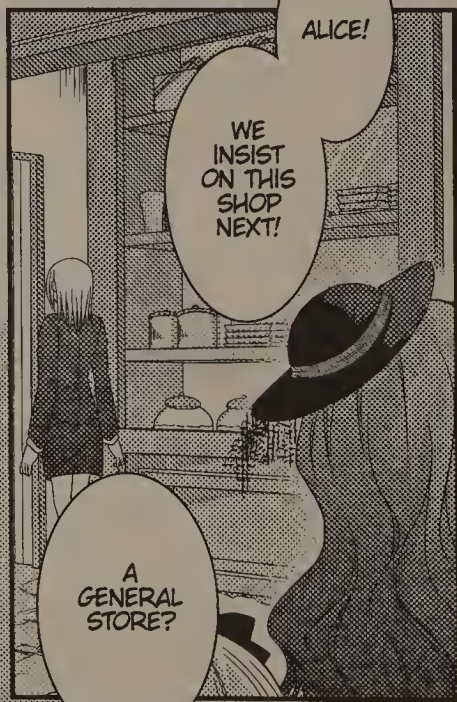
THEY'VE
GOT
EVERY-
THING
HERE.



ALICE!
ALICE!

I LIKE
THE ONES
WITH THE
SIMPLE
DESIGNS.

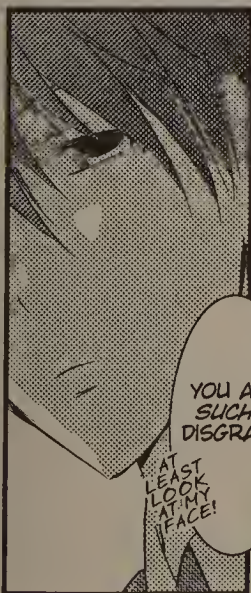
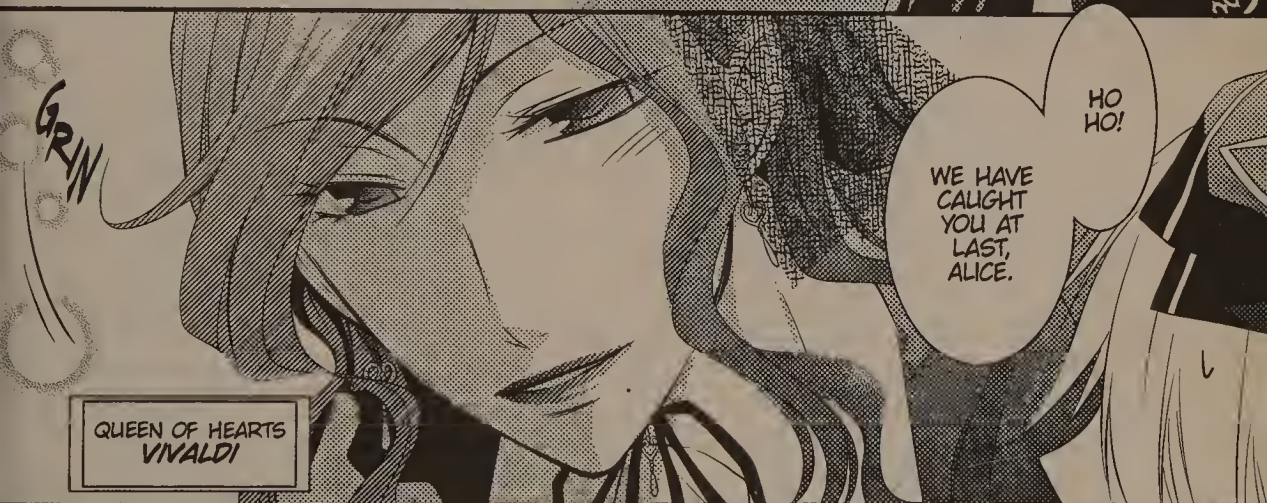
THEY'RE
PRETTY.



ALICE!

WE
INSIST
ON THIS
SHOP
NEXT!

A
GENERAL
STORE?

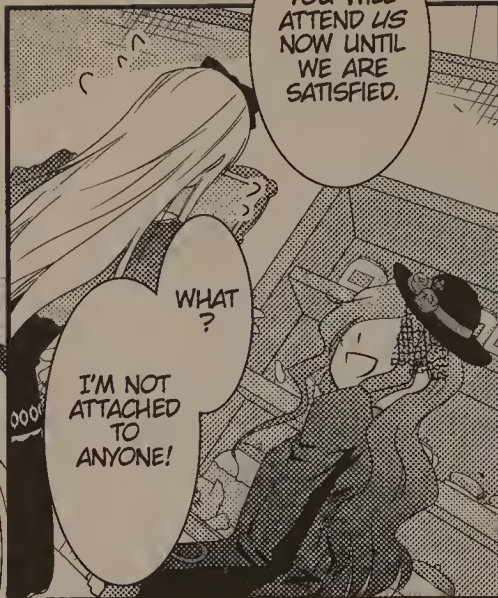




ACE
AND I
JUST...

HM.

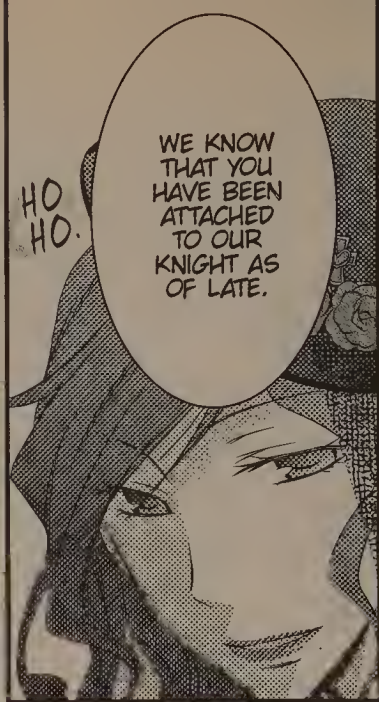
DOES
SHE NOT
RECOGNIZE
IT?



YOU WILL
ATTEND US
NOW UNTIL
WE ARE
SATISFIED.

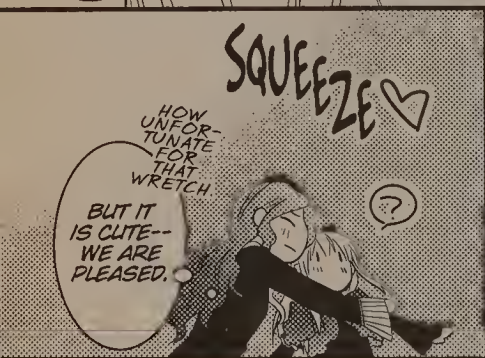
WHAT
?

I'M NOT
ATTACHED
TO
ANYONE!



HO
HO.

WE KNOW
THAT YOU
HAVE BEEN
ATTACHED
TO OUR
KNIGHT AS
OF LATE.



SQUEEZE ♡

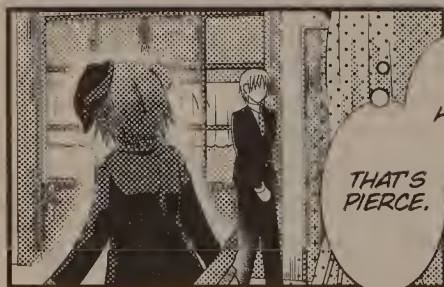
HOW
UNFOR-
TUNATE
FOR
THAT
WRETCH

BUT IT
IS CUTE--
WE ARE
PLEASED.



BUT I
GUESS I
SHOULDN'T
GET SO
WORKED
UP
ABOUT
IT.

UGH
...

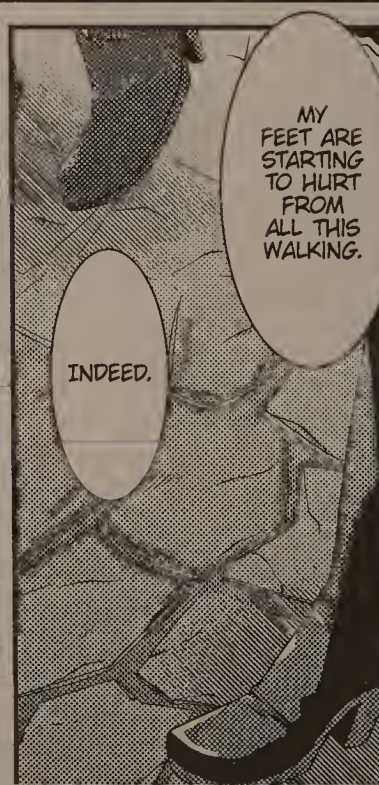


HEY.

THAT'S
PIERCE.



CAN WE
TAKE A
BREAK
SOME-
WHERE?

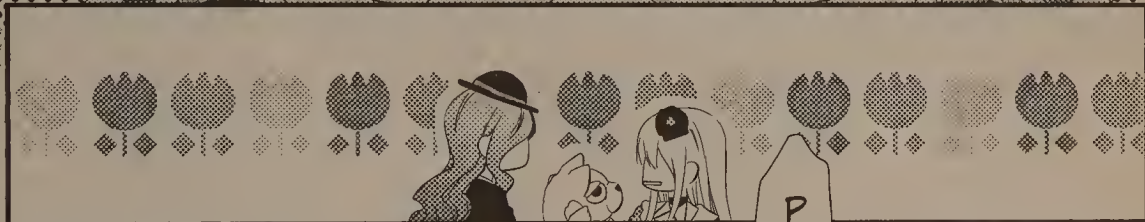
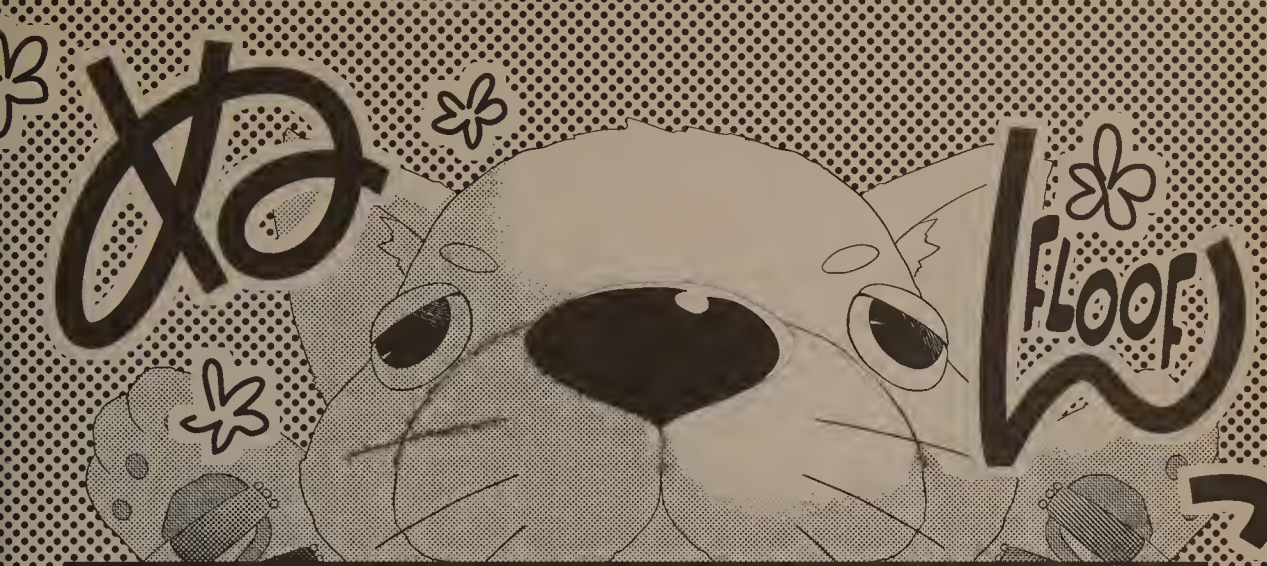


MY
FEET ARE
STARTING
TO HURT
FROM
ALL THIS
WALKING.

INDEED.

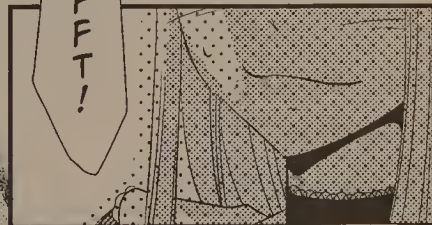


YOU'RE
LOOKING
BETTER,
PIERCE!

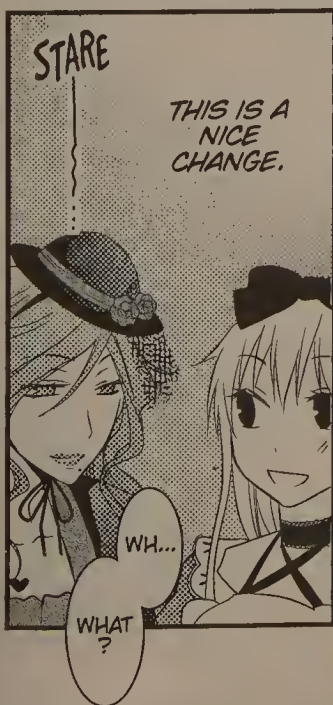


OVER THERE!

WHERE'D YOU FIND THAT?



PFFT!



STARE

THIS IS A NICE CHANGE.

WH...

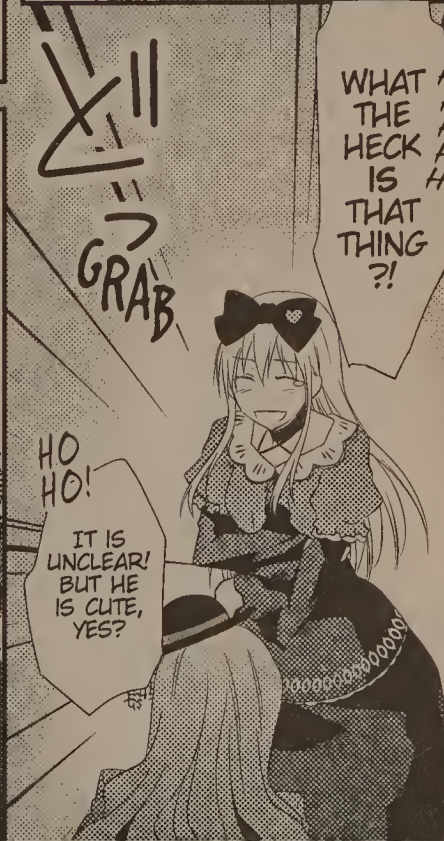
WHAT?



REALLY?

COME TO THINK OF IT...

I'VE BEEN GETTING DRAGGED AROUND BY ACE A LOT LATELY.



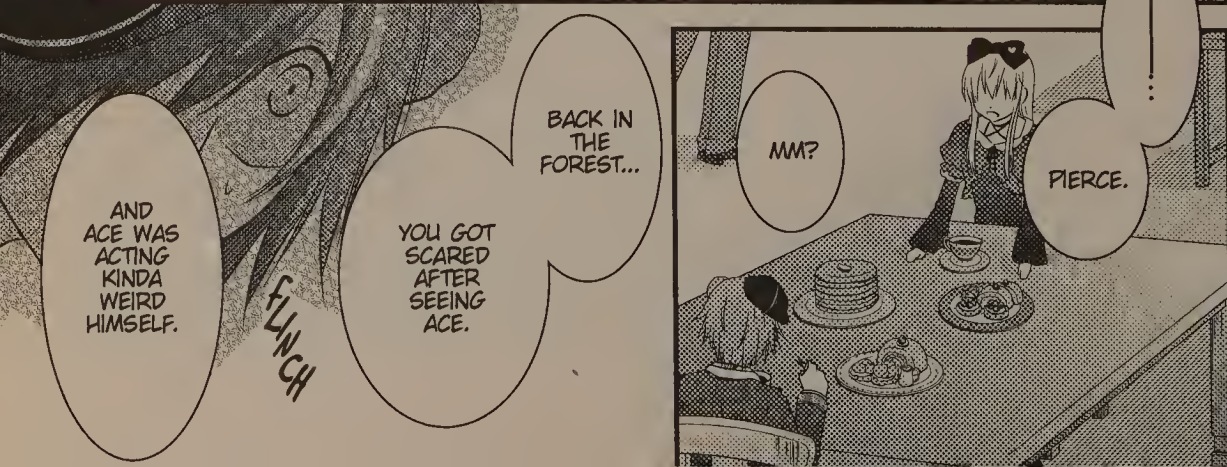
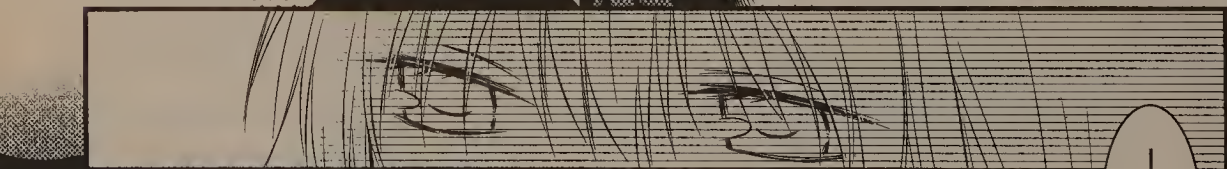
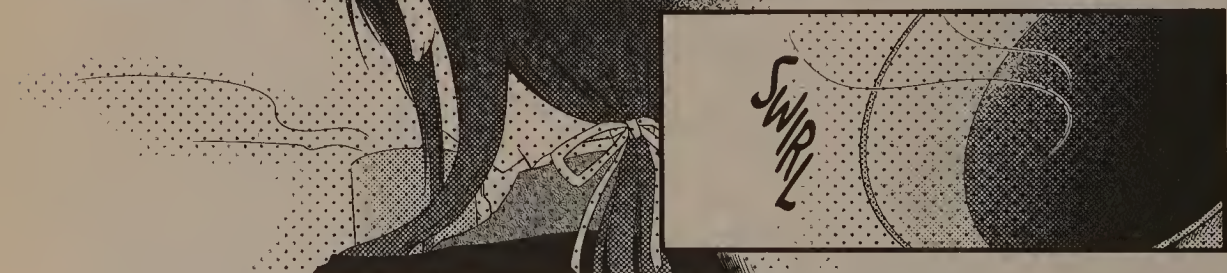
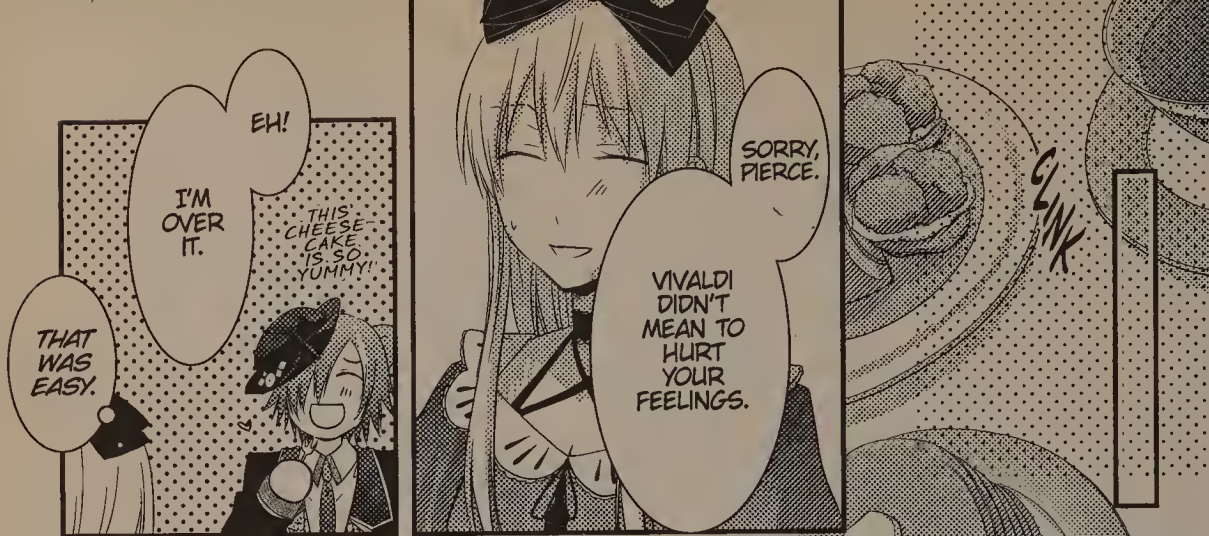
GRAB

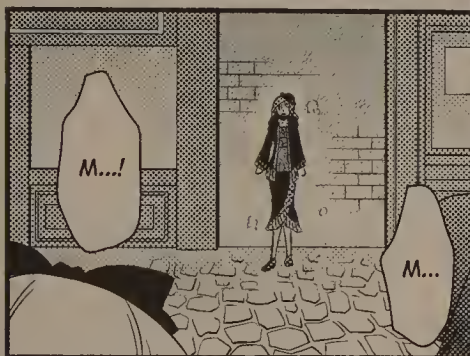
HO HO!

IT IS UNCLEAR! BUT HE IS CLUTE, YES?

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT THING ?!

AH HA! HA HA HA HA HA!





✿ BEAM

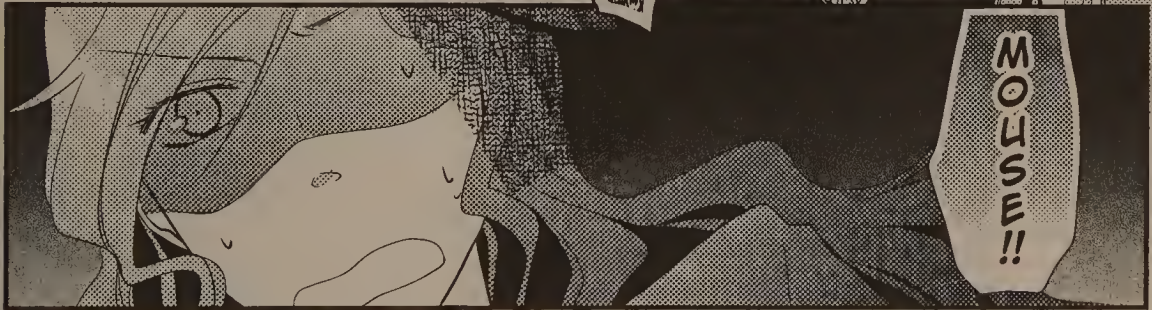
HI, ALICE!

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU HERE!

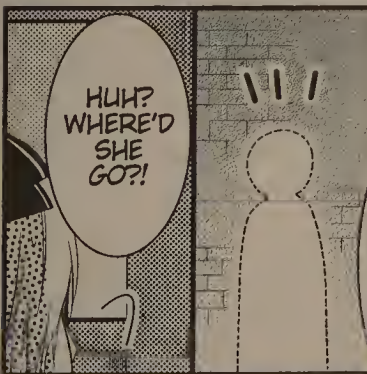
BEAM ✿

CAN I SQUEAK IN A--

NO.

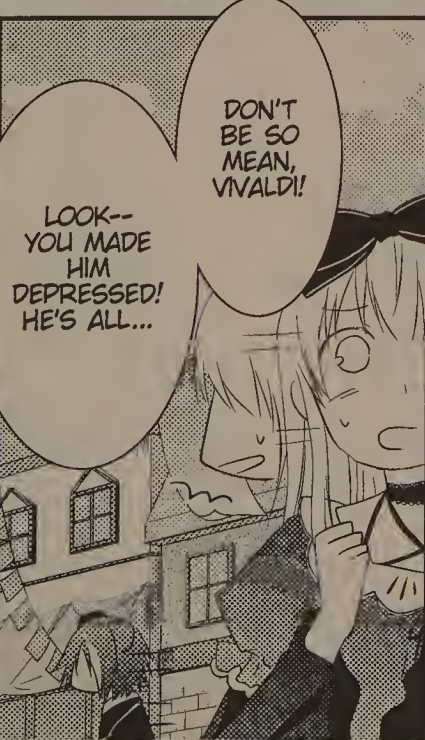


MOUSE!!



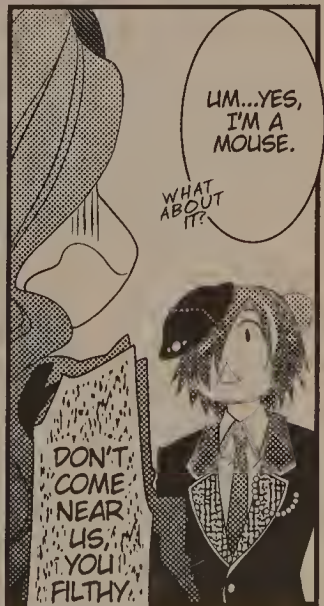
HUH? WHERE'D SHE GO?!

!!!



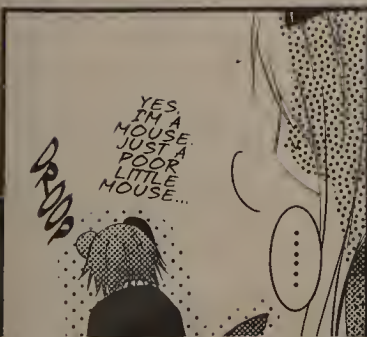
DON'T BE SO MEAN, VIVALDI!

LOOK-- YOU MADE HIM DEPRESSED! HE'S ALL...



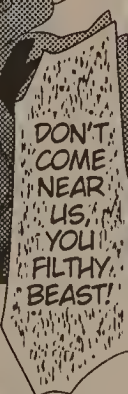
UM...YES, I'M A MOUSE.

WHAT ABOUT IT?



YES, I'M A MOUSE JUST A POOR LITTLE MOUSE...

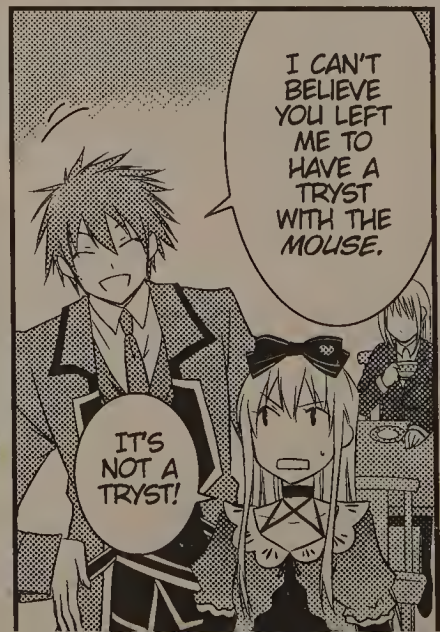
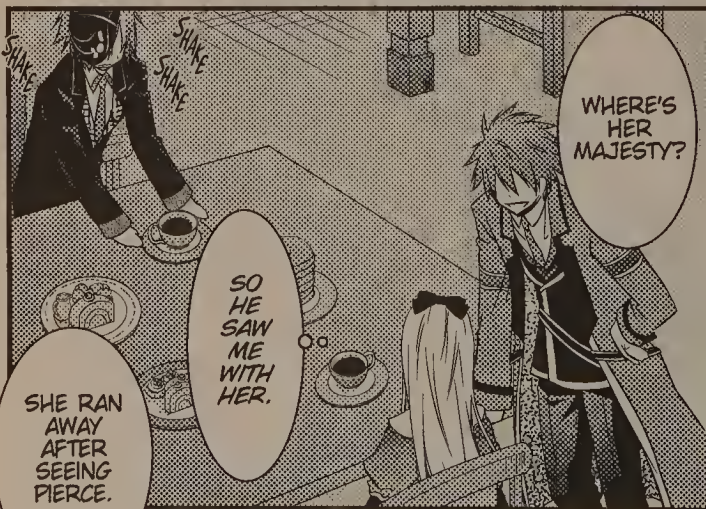
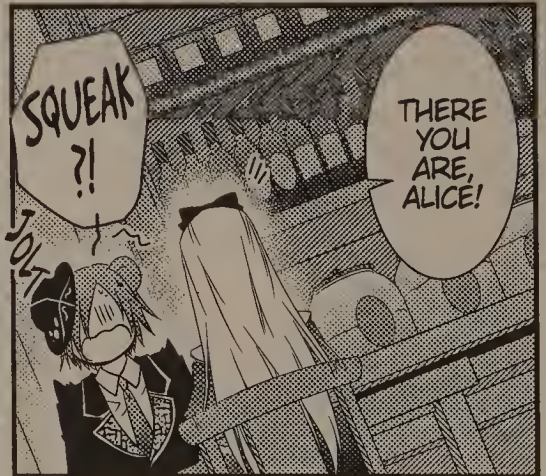
DROOP

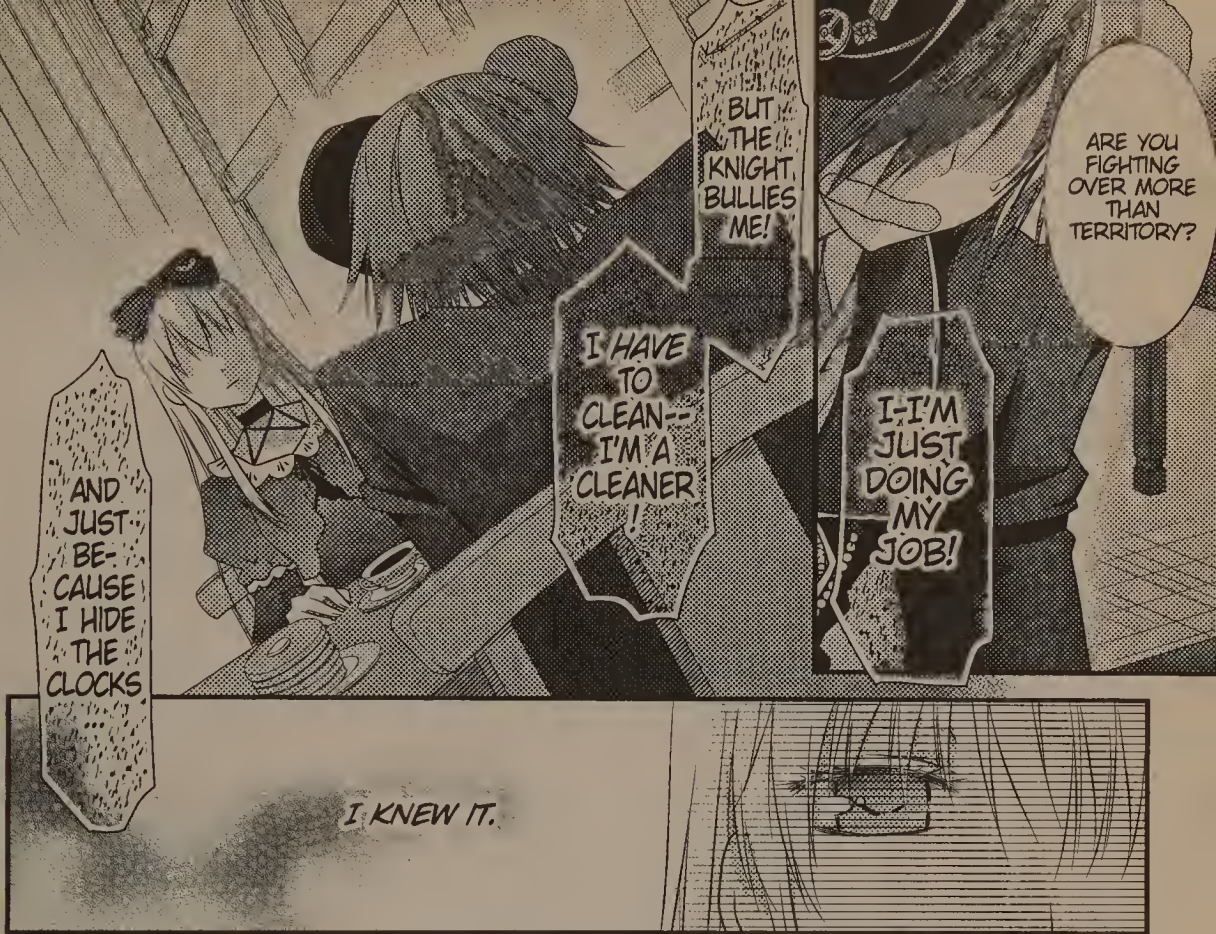


DON'T COME NEAR US YOU FILTHY BEAST!



"...GOT PUSHED OUT.
I WONDER WHY."





AND JUST BE-
CAUSE I HIDE
THE CLOCKS

BUT
THE KNIGHT
BULLIES
ME!

I HAVE
TO CLEAN--
I'M A
CLEANER
!

I-I'M
JUST
DOING
MY
JOB!

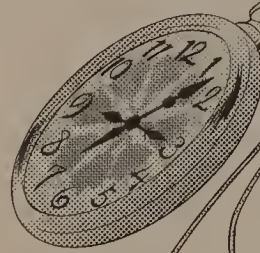
ARE YOU
FIGHTING
OVER MORE
THAN
TERRITORY?

I KNEW IT.



JULIUS
ISN'T
EVEN IN
THIS
COUNTRY.

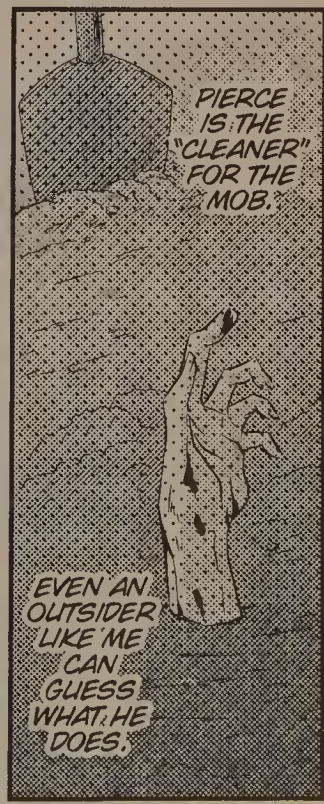
BUT ACE
IS STILL
THINKING
ABOUT
HIM.



AND SINCE
JULIUS
DEALS
WITH THE
CLOCKS
THAT GIVE
LIFE TO
THE PEOPLE
IN THIS
WORLD...

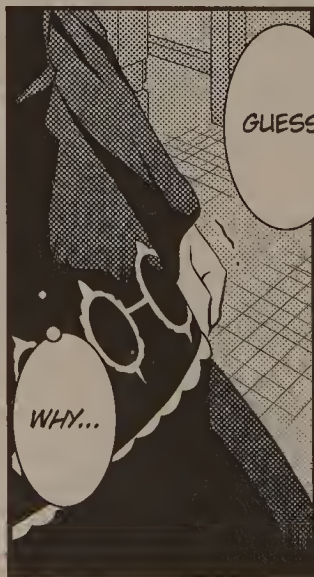
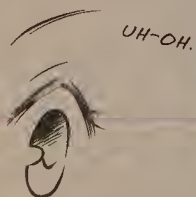
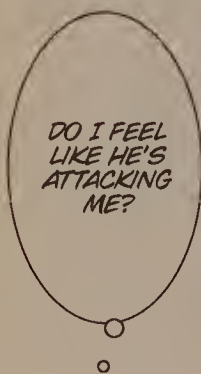
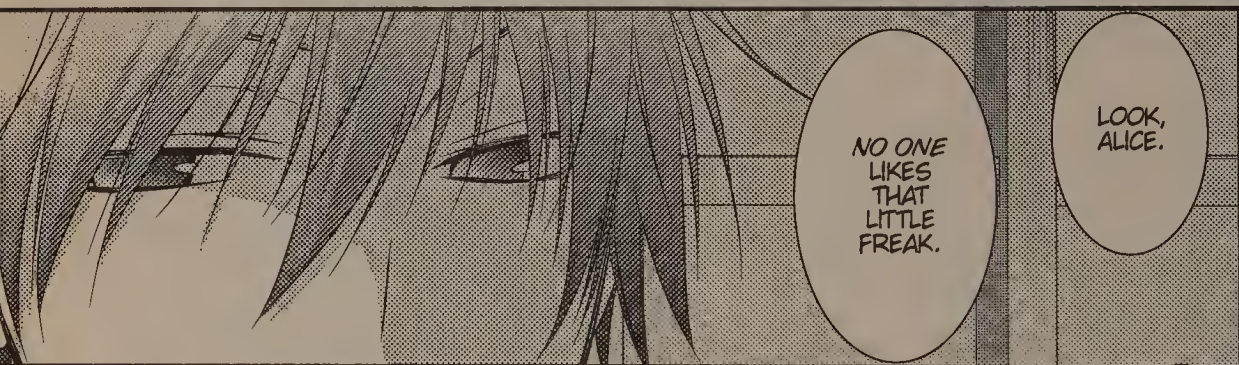
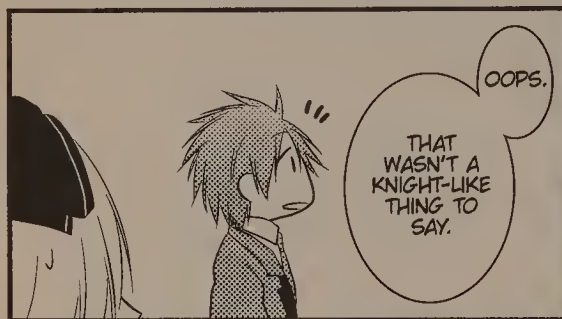
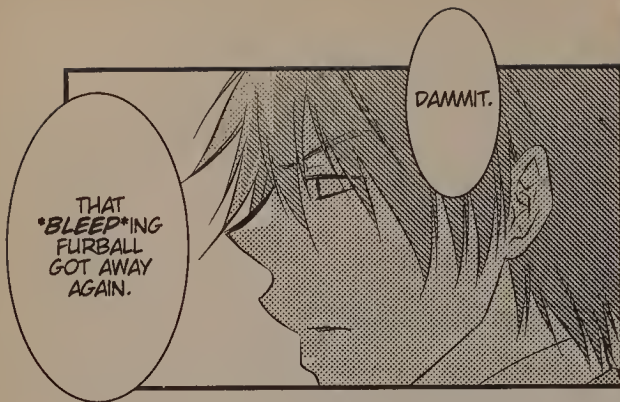
PIERCE
"HIDES"
THE
CLOCKS.

AND ACE
WAS
HELPING
JULIUS.



PIERCE
IS THE
"CLEANER"
FOR THE
MOB.

EVEN AN
OUTSIDER
LIKE ME
CAN
GUESS
WHAT HE
DOES.





ヒッ
FREEZE

GET
ME A
SEAT.

I
GET
IT.

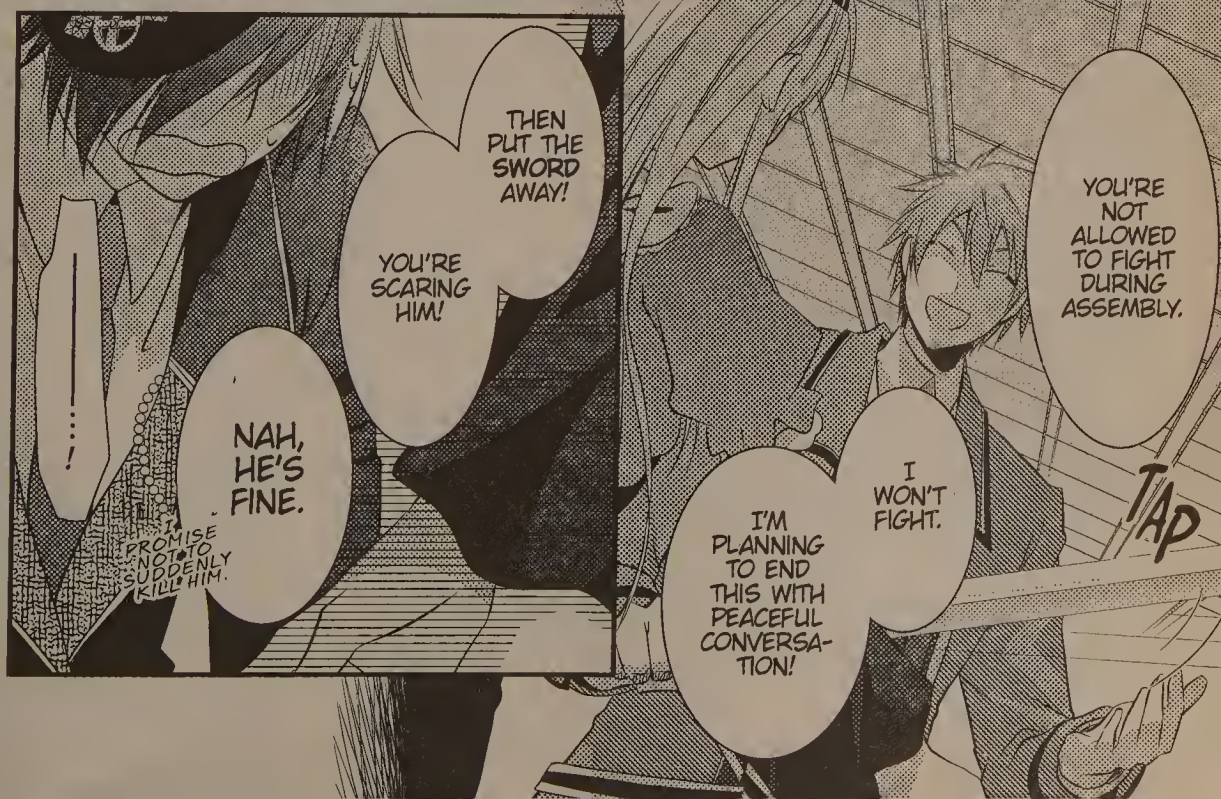
AND
THAT'S WHY
YOU'RE
ALONE
WITH THE
MOUSEY
MOUSE
NOW.

SHWP



はっ!!
FWUP!!

DON'T,
ACE!



THEN
PUT THE
SWORD
AWAY!

YOU'RE
SCARING
HIM!

NAH,
HE'S
FINE.

PROMISE
NOT TO
SUDDENLY
KILL HIM.

YOU'RE
NOT
ALLOWED
TO FIGHT
DURING
ASSEMBLY.

I
WON'T
FIGHT.

I'M
PLANNING
TO END
THIS WITH
PEACEFUL
CONVER-
SATION!

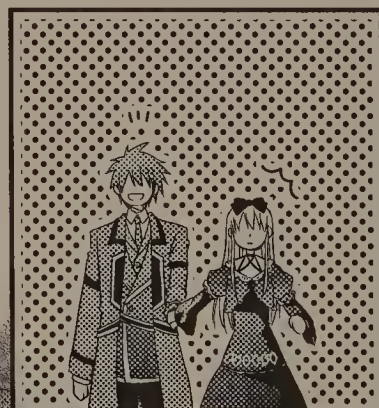
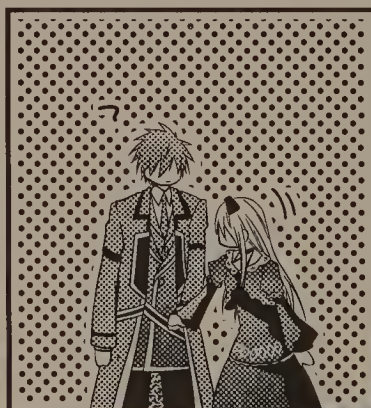
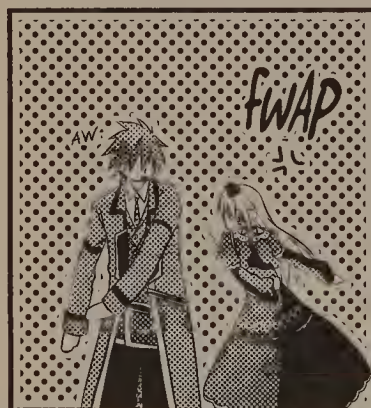
TAP

IT'S RIDICULOUS AND COOL.



SINCE
WE'RE
HOLDING
HANDS

THIS
FEELS
LIKE A
DATE.



Y...YOU
REALLY
THINK
SO?

IT
WASN'T
A BIG
DEAL.

RELAX.

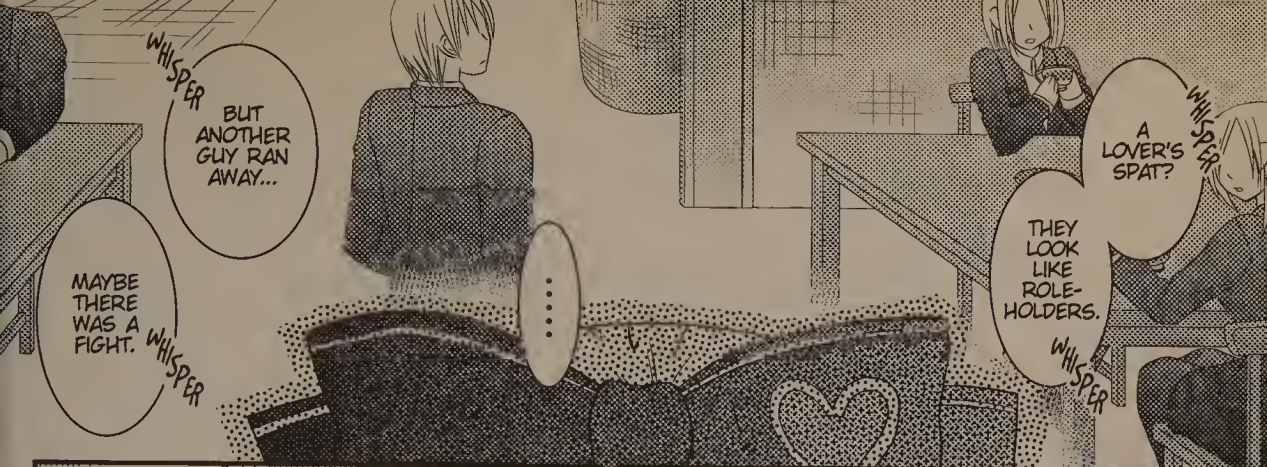
I'M
SURE
THEY'VE
SEEN
WORSE

SIGH

NOW I
CAN'T GO
TO THAT
RESTAURANT
ANYMORE...

UGH.

IT'S ONLY
BECAUSE
I HAD TO
DRAG YOU
OUT OF
THERE.



WHISPER

BUT
ANOTHER
GUY RAN
AWAY...

MAYBE
THERE
WAS A
FIGHT.

WHISPER

...

A
LOVER'S
SPAT?

WHISPER

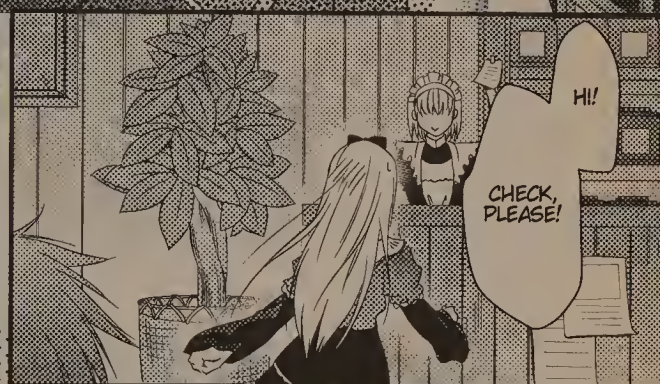
THEY
LOOK
LIKE
ROLE-
HOLDERS.

WHISPER



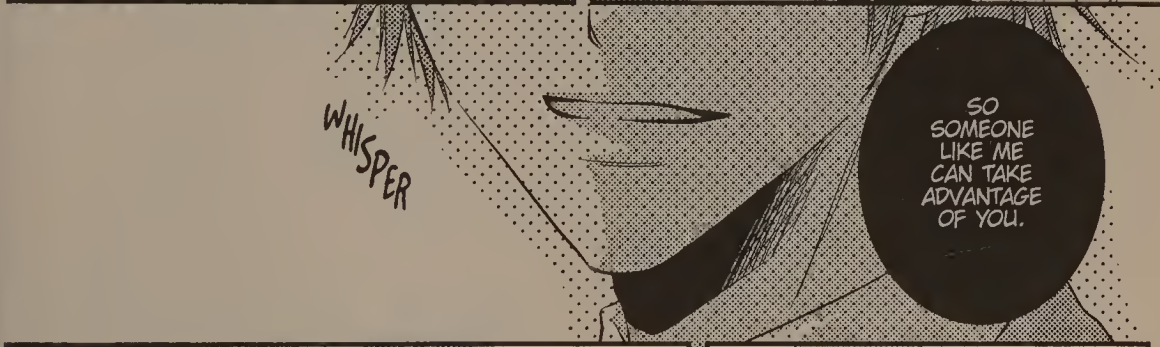
.....

YOU'RE
ALWAYS
SO NICE,
ALICE.



HI!

CHECK,
PLEASE!



WHISPER

SO
SOMEONE
LIKE ME
CAN TAKE
ADVANTAGE
OF YOU.



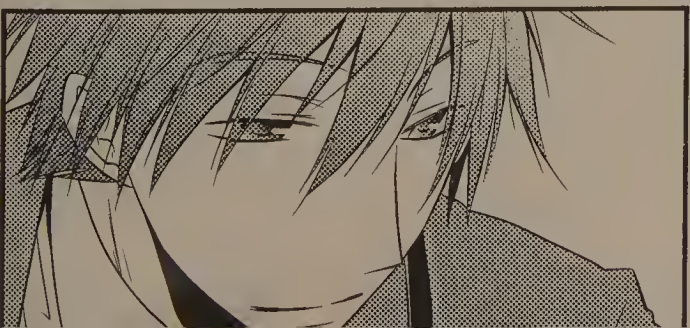
THIS IS SO
EMBARRASSING!

SORRY,
SORRY.



GRAB

DON'T STAND
THERE
MUTTERING--
LET'S GO!

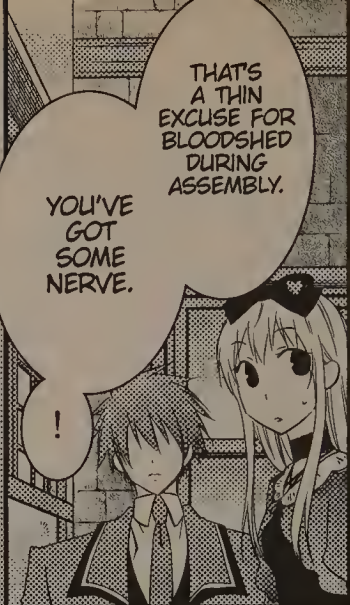




MEH.
THAT GUY JUMPED ME, LIZARD.

NOW YOU'VE INTERRUPTED ME.

I WAS ON AN ERRAND FOR WORK.



YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE.

THAT'S A THIN EXCUSE FOR BLOODSHED DURING ASSEMBLY.

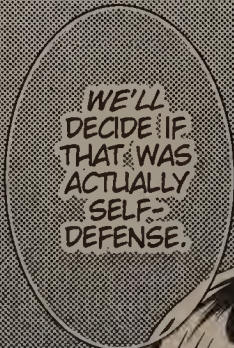


I'M SURE YOU AT LEAST ASKED HIM WHAT HIS AFFILIATION WAS.

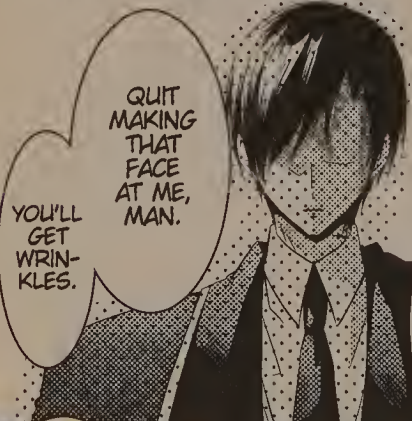
HM?

CLICK

HE MADE THE FIRST MOVE.



WE'LL DECIDE IF THAT WAS ACTUALLY SELF-DEFENSE.



YOU'LL GET WRINKLES.

QUIT MAKING THAT FACE AT ME, MAN.

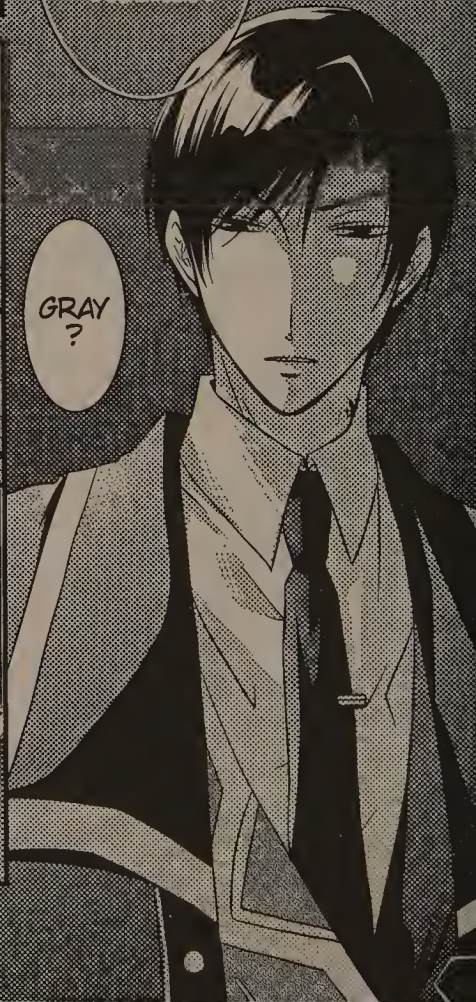


NOPE. ACCIDENTALLY KILLED HIM IN ONE STAB.

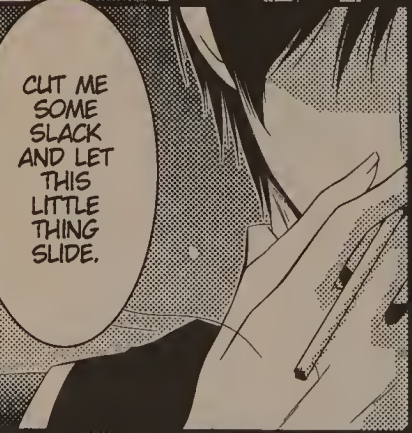
I'VE BEEN OFF MY GAME LATELY.

HA HA!

ACE ...



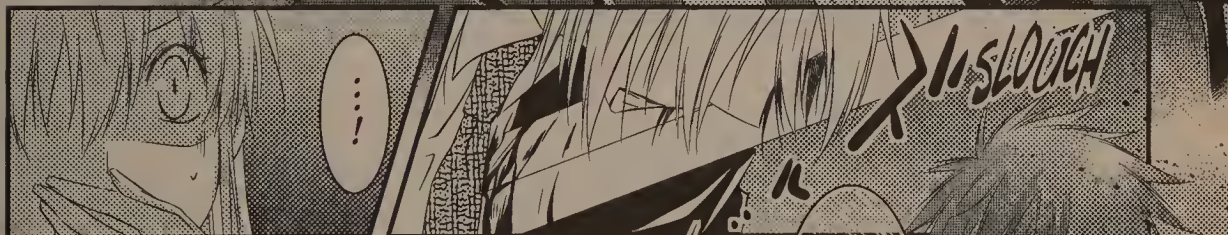
GRAY ?



CUT ME SOME SLACK AND LET THIS LITTLE THING SLIDE.

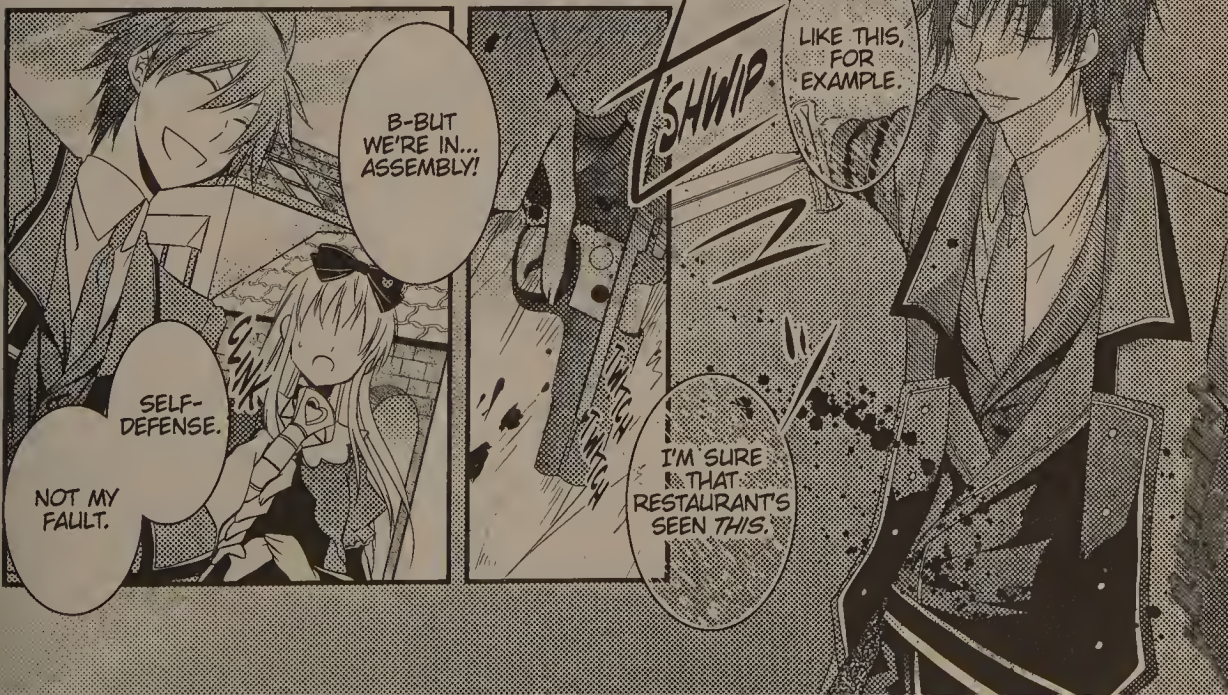


WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING,
ACE?!



...!

SLOUCH



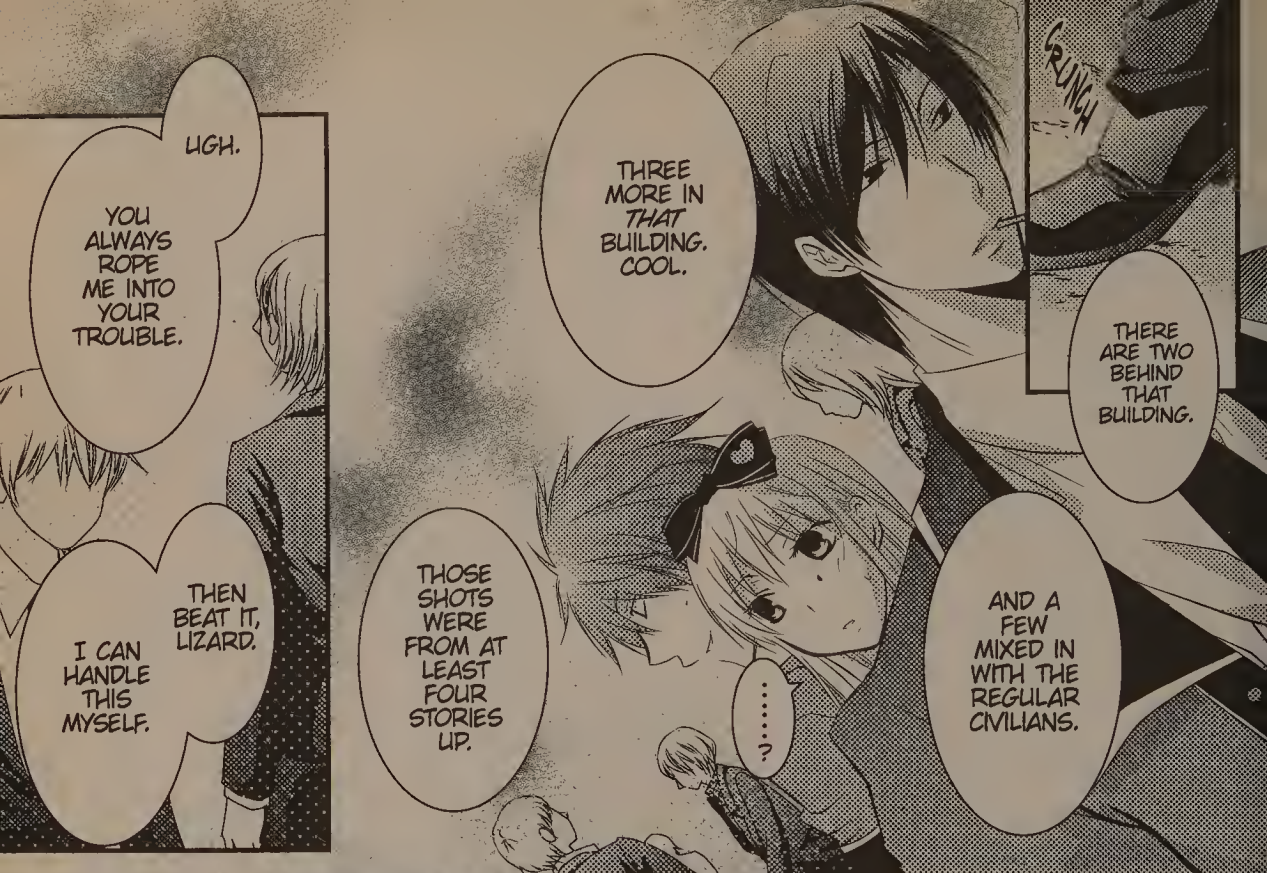
LIKE THIS,
FOR
EXAMPLE.

B-BUT
WE'RE IN...
ASSEMBLY!

SELF-
DEFENSE.

I'M SURE
THAT
RESTAURANT'S
SEEN THIS.

NOT MY
FAULT.



UGH.

YOU
ALWAYS
ROPE
ME INTO
YOUR
TROUBLE.

THREE
MORE IN
THAT
BUILDING.
COOL.

GRUNCH

THERE
ARE TWO
BEHIND
THAT
BUILDING.

I CAN
HANDLE
THIS
MYSELF.

THEN
BEAT IT,
LIZARD.

THOSE
SHOTS
WERE
FROM AT
LEAST
FOUR
STORIES
UP.

.....
~

AND A
FEW
MIXED IN
WITH THE
REGULAR
CIVILIANS.



THAT
DOESN'T
HELP.

HA HA!
DON'T
WORRY--
IF SHE'S
RUINED,
I'LL TAKE
THE
BLAME.

BUT I
DON'T
TRUST
YOU TO
PROTECT
ALICE.

I'M NOT
WORRIED
ABOUT
YOU!



AH
HA
HA!

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

THAT'S
COLD,
LIZZIE.

THEY SCARE
ME WORSE
THAN
WHOEVER'S
SHOOTING.

DON'T
APOLOGIZE.

EVERYTHING
HERE IS
ENTIRELY THE
KNIGHT'S
FAULT.

I'M
SORRY,
GUYS.

I KNOW
I'M A
LIABILITY
HERE.



HUHR?



GRAY!

THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO--

YOU NEVER DO THAT! NICE!

YOU'RE GONNA HELP ME TRAIN?!

WAIT, REALLY?

WE HAVE RULES FOR A REASON.

I'LL CARVE THAT INTO YOU, IF I HAVE TO.

SHWIP!!



FWAP

PING

PING



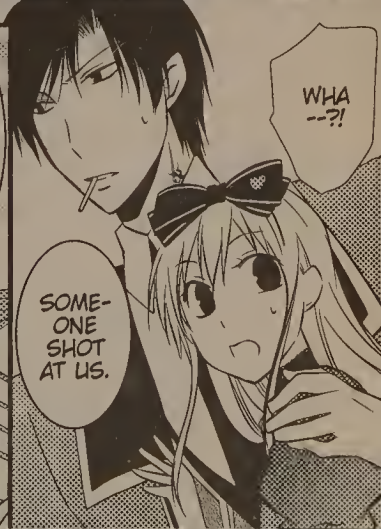
STOP SPLITTING HAIRS!

SOMEONE'S TRYING TO KILL US.

BOO!

THE KNIGHT'S SUPPOSED TO PROTECT THE GIRL.

YOU SNEAKY BASTARD.



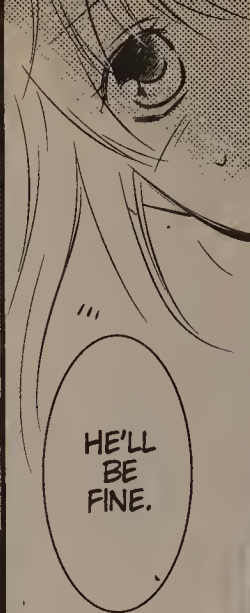
WHA --?!

SOMEONE SHOT AT US.

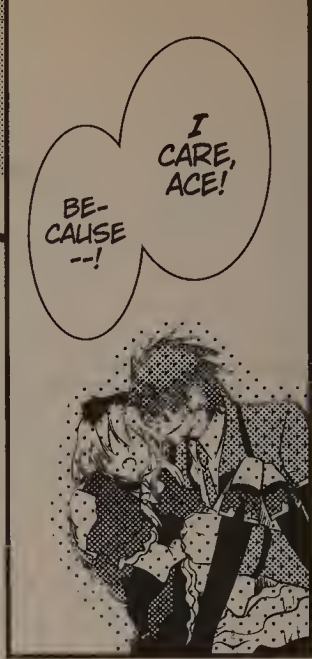


HE'S
TOUGHER
THAN HE
LOOKS.

HE'S A LOT
STRONGER
THAN I
AM NOW.

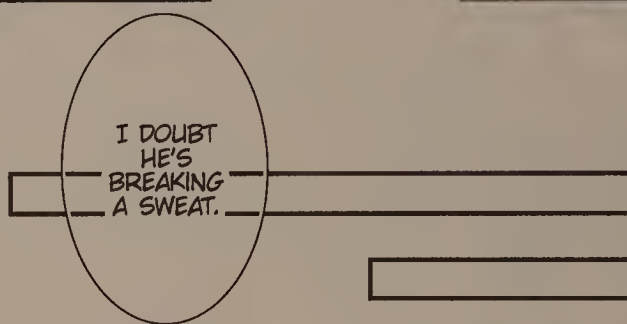


HE'LL
BE
FINE.

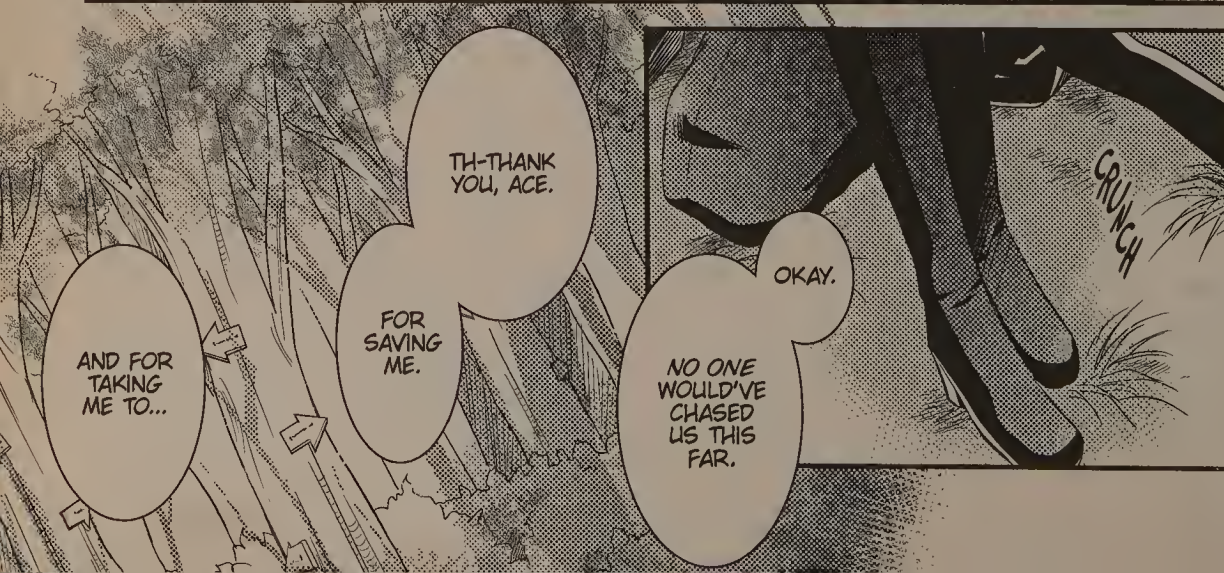
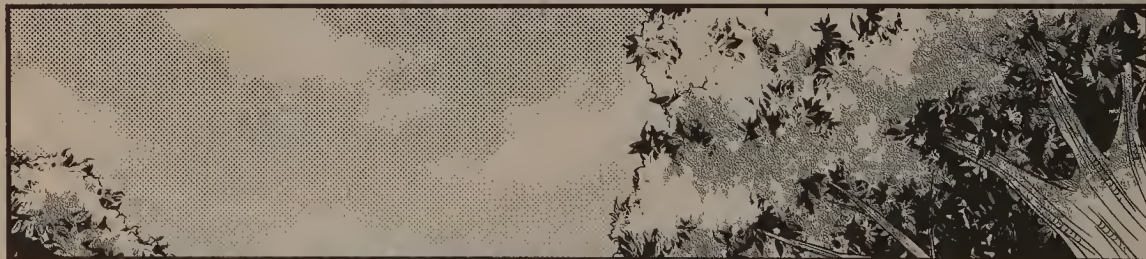
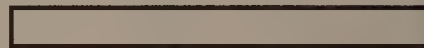


BE-
CAUSE
--!

I
CARE,
ACE!



I DOUBT
HE'S
BREAKING
A SWEAT.



TH-THANK
YOU, ACE.

FOR
SAVING
ME.

AND FOR
TAKING
ME TO...

OKAY.

NO ONE
WOULD'VE
CHASED
US THIS
FAR.

CRUNCH



HA HA!
LIZARD'S
ALL
BUSINESS.

SHUT
UP
AND
GO.

PLIP

HERE.

I'M
BUSY--
LET'S
FINISH
THIS.



TAK
TAK
TAK

WAIT!

WHO
CARES?

IS GRAY
GONNA
BE OKAY
ALONE?!



YES

NOT TO WORRY.

THAT'S WHY I FOLLOWED YOU.

I SAW HIM RUNNING IN AN UNBELIEVABLE DIRECTION.

GRAY.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE?



I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU...



HNN.



IT SEEMS SHE'S SUFFERED A LOT IN THE PAST.

SURE.

Teary-eyed

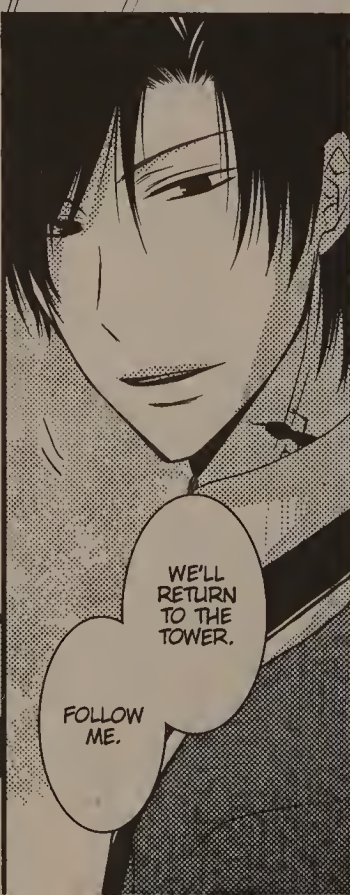
THANK YOU! NOW WE CAN MAKE IT BACK IN TIME FOR THE ASSEMBLY!



FWING

?!

SNATCH



WE'LL RETURN TO THE TOWER.

FOLLOW ME.



HUH ?

THE TIME PERIOD JUST CHANGED...

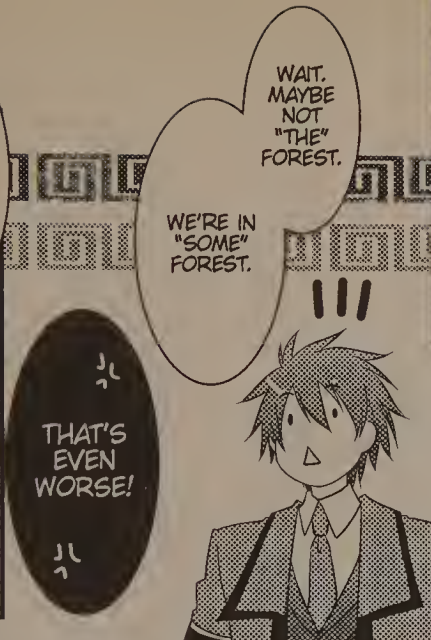
NIGHT.

I TOOK DOWN THE ATTACKERS, BUT WE CAN'T LOWER OUR GUARD.



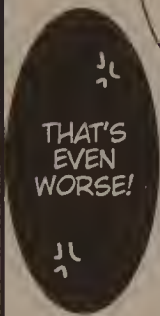
WE WON'T
GET BACK
IN TIME
FOR
ASSEMBLY!

AGH!
HOW DO
WE FIND
OUR WAY
OUT OF
HERE?!



WE'RE IN
"SOME"
FOREST.

WAIT,
MAYBE
NOT
"THE"
FOREST.



THAT'S
EVEN
WORSE!



SOME-
WHERE
IN THE
FOREST!
☆

WHERE
ARE
WE?

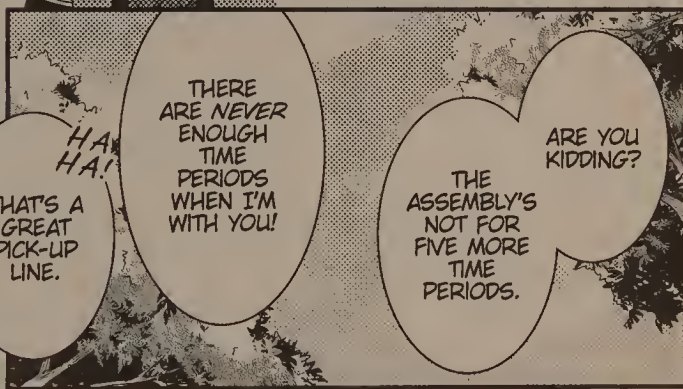
THUMBS
UP!



GLANCE

IGNORE

ACE MAY
RUN FAST,
BUT WE
COULDN'T
HAVE
GOTTEN
THAT FAR.



THAT'S A
GREAT
PICK-UP
LINE.

THERE
ARE NEVER
ENOUGH
TIME
PERIODS
WHEN I'M
WITH YOU!

ARE YOU
KIDDING?

THE
ASSEMBLY'S
NOT FOR
FIVE MORE
TIME
PERIODS.

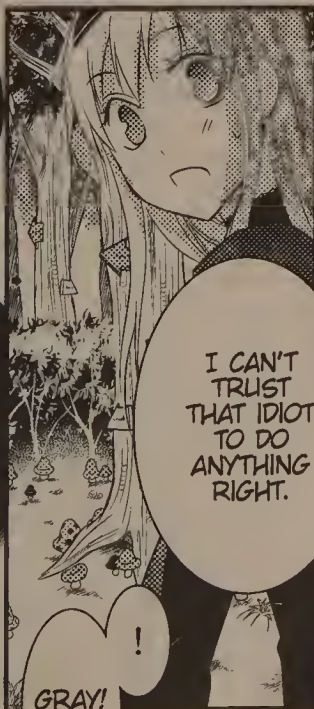


TAP
TAP

YOU'RE
OKAY!

OF
COURSE.

I'M
SO
GLAD!



I CAN'T
TRUST
THAT IDIOT
TO DO
ANYTHING
RIGHT.

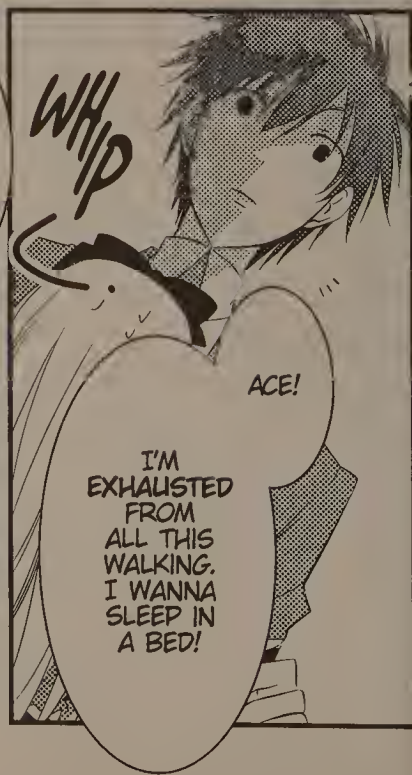
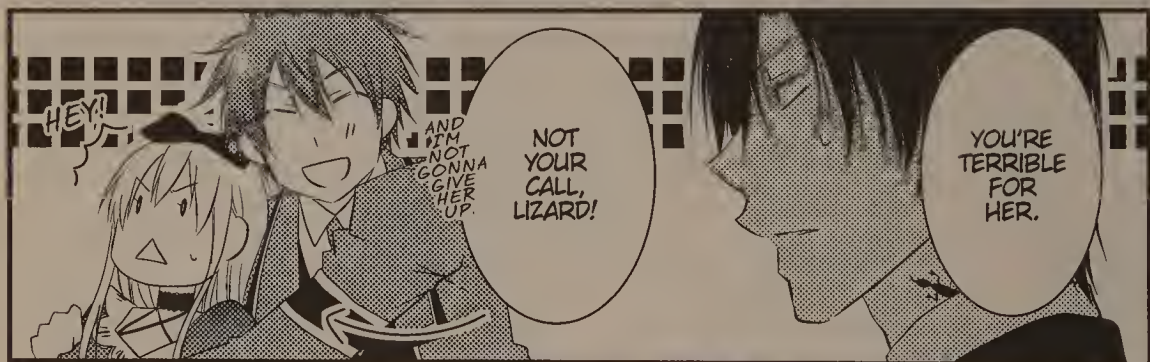
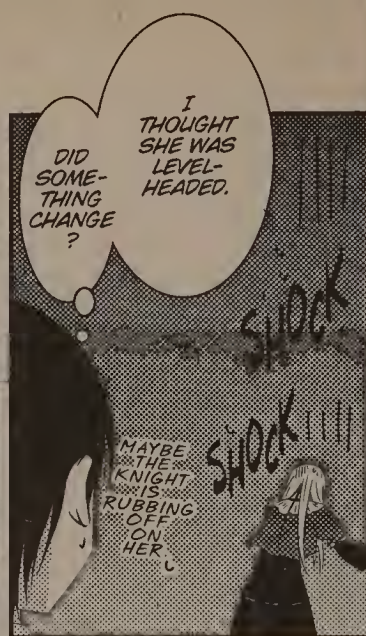
GRAY!

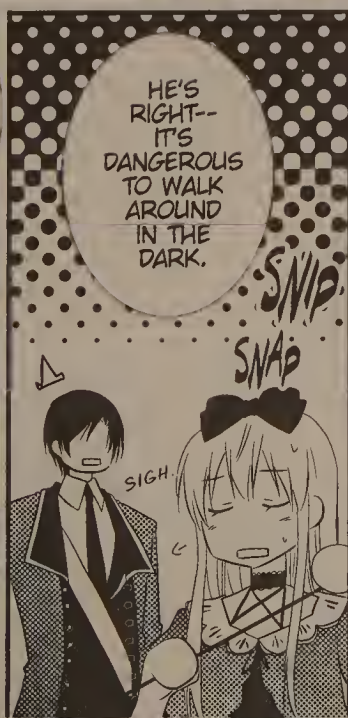
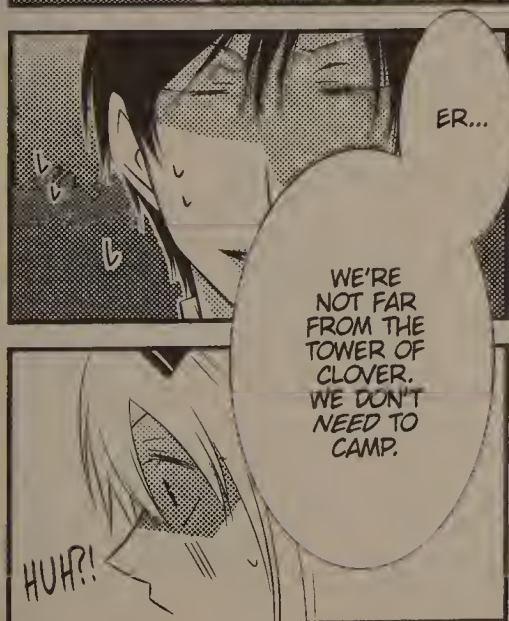
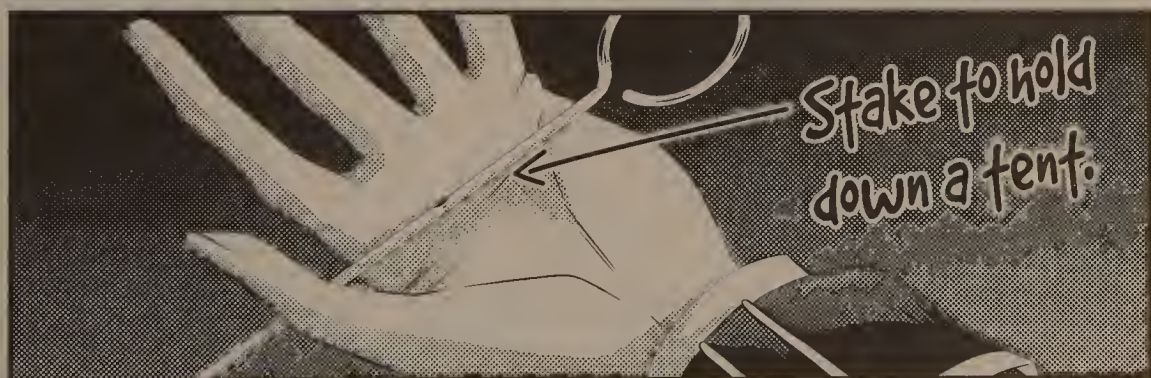
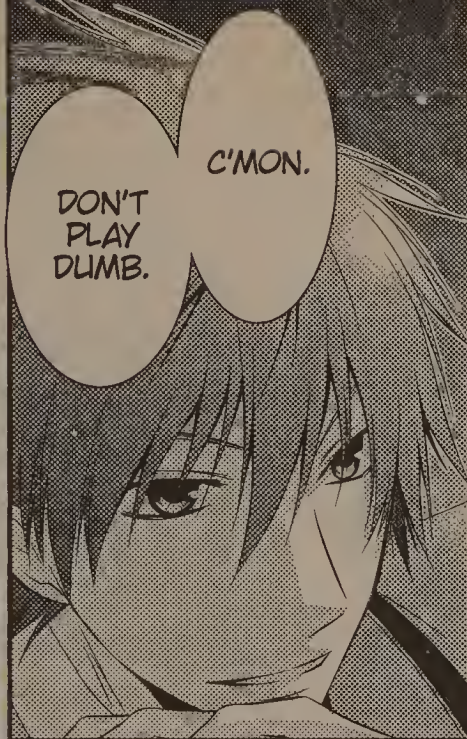
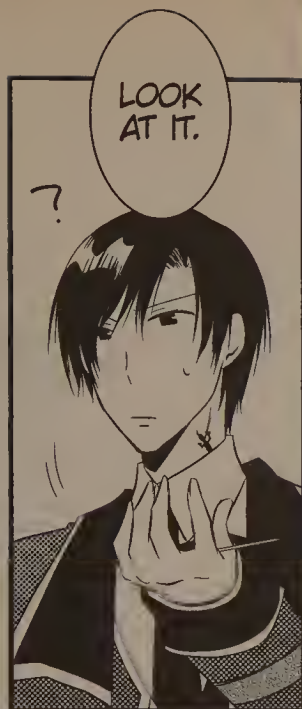


DOOF

THEN
MAYBE...

THIS
WAS A
MISTAKE.







I...
I
ALREADY
KNOW
THAT.

BUT I
CAN'T
LEAVE
HIM
ALONE.

I
KNOW
IT'S
WEIRD,
BUT I
CAN'T
HELP IT.

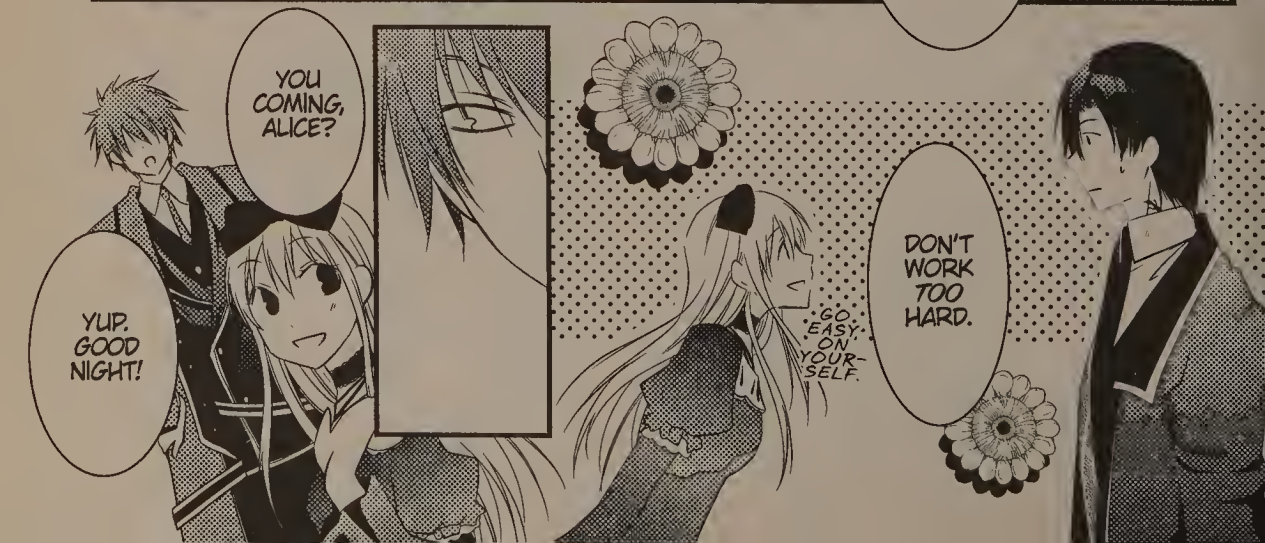


BUT
THANKS
FOR
WORRYING
ABOUT
ME.



AND,
GRAY...

GOOD
LUCK
WITH ALL
YOUR
WORK.

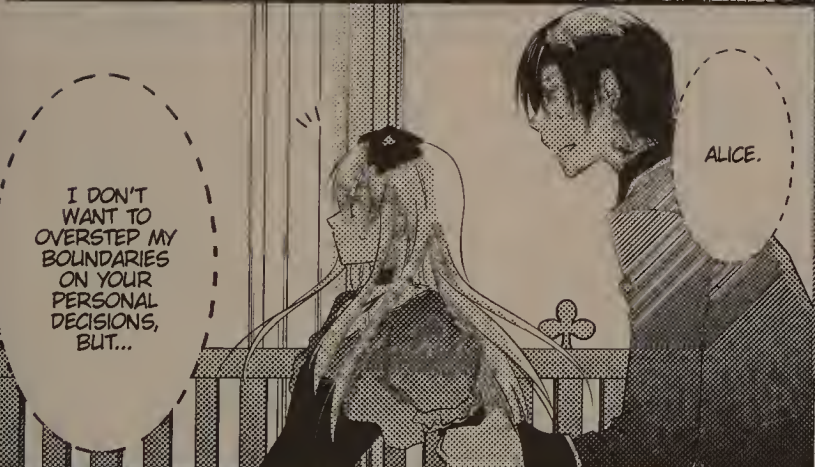
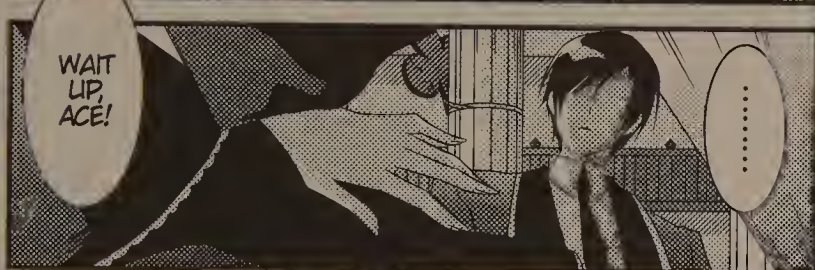


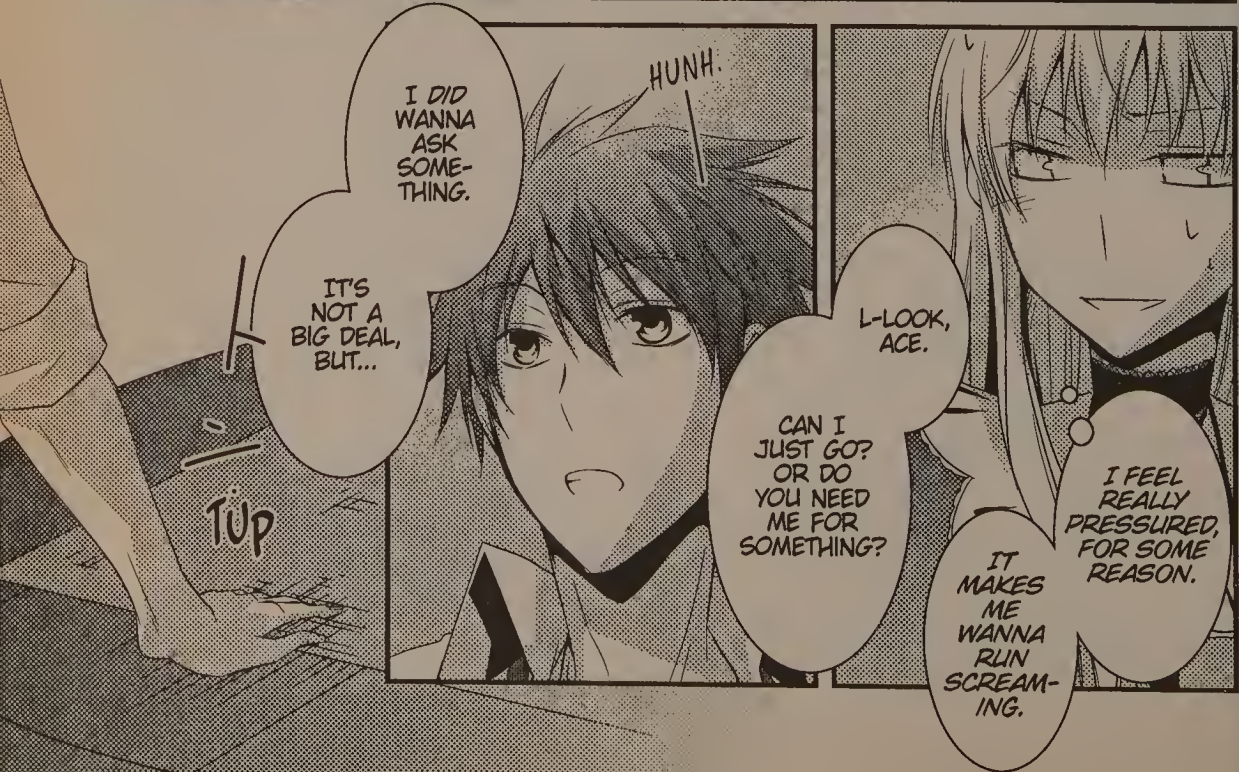
YOU
COMING,
ALICE?

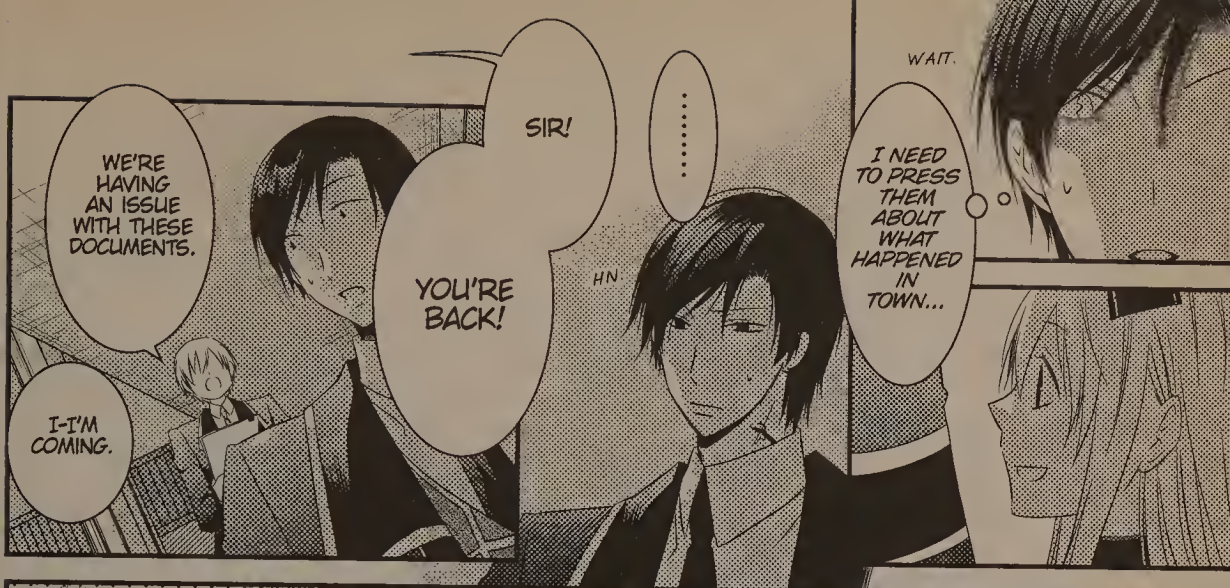
YUP.
GOOD
NIGHT!

GO
EASY
ON
YOUR-
SELF.

DON'T
WORK
TOO
HARD.







WE'RE
HAVING
AN ISSUE
WITH THESE
DOCUMENTS.

SIR!

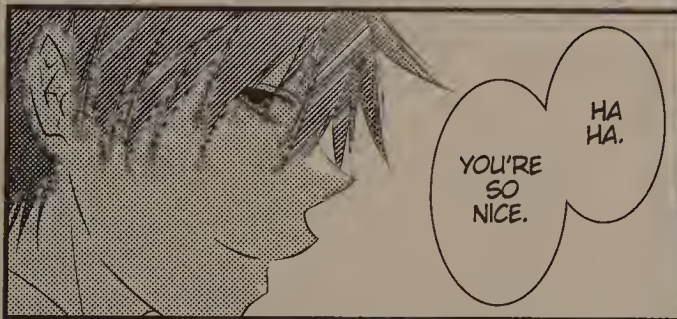
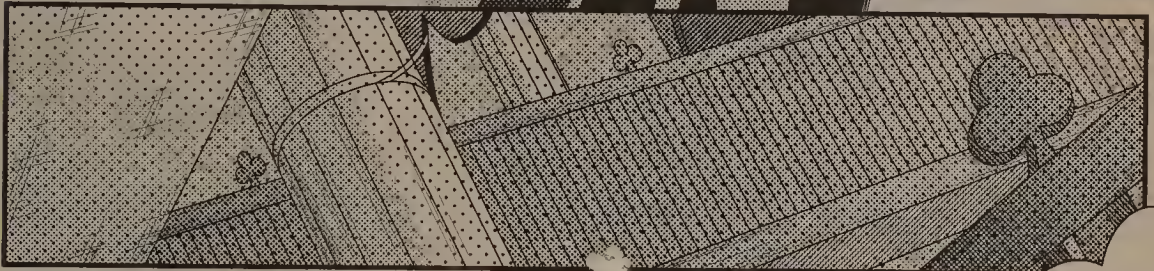
YOU'RE
BACK!

HN

I NEED
TO PRESS
THEM
ABOUT
WHAT
HAPPENED
IN TOWN...

WAIT.

I-I'M
COMING.



YOU'RE
SO
NICE.

HA
HA.



QUIT
IT.

DONT
SAY-IT
ALL
CREEPY.



COOL..

THANKS.

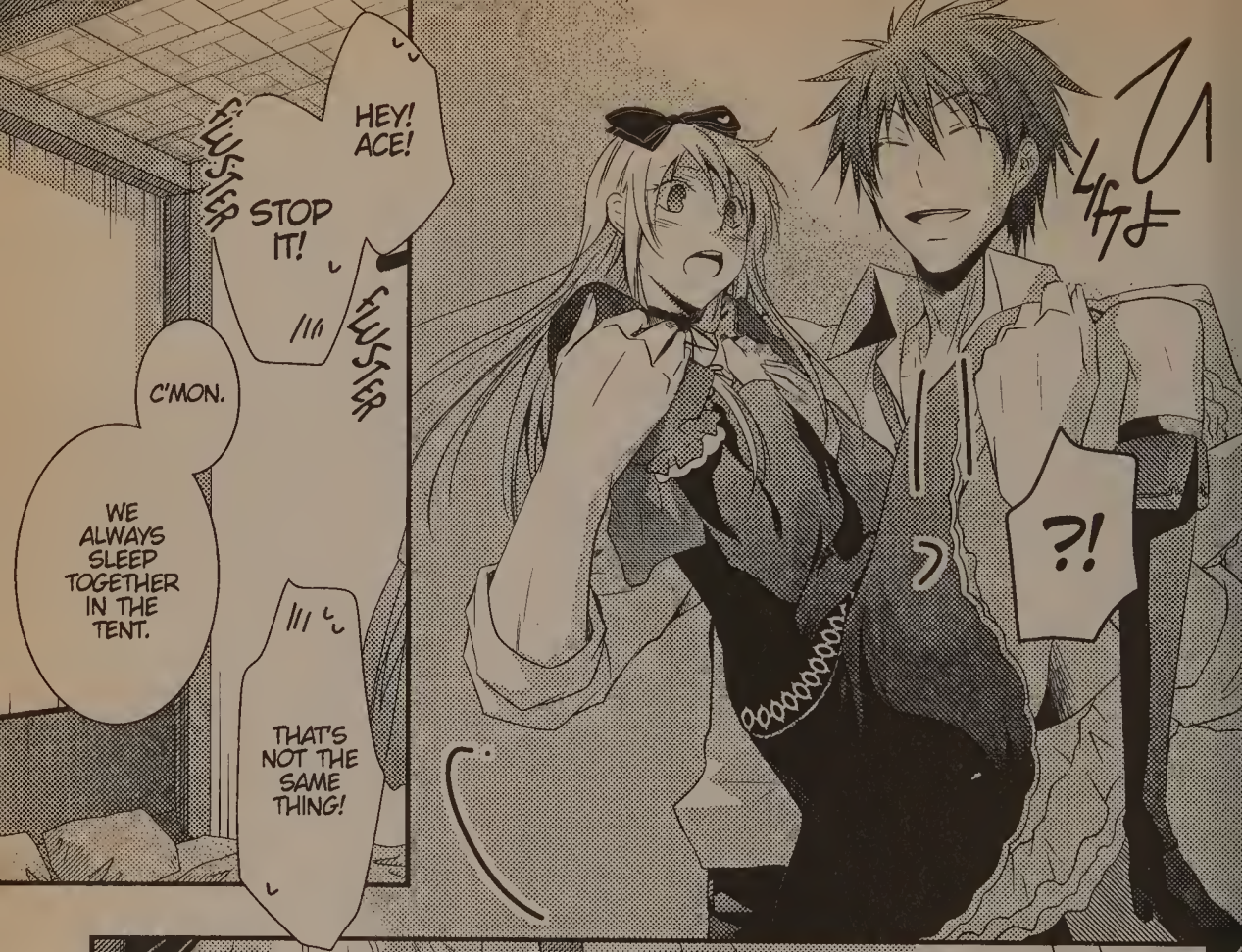
THIS
IS IT.



WHOA.

IS
YOUR
ROOM
THIS
WAY,
TOO?

NO, ACE.
BUT I
KNOW
YOU'LL
NEVER
FIND YOUR
ROOM
ALONE.



HEY!
ACE!

STOP
IT!

C'MON.

WE
ALWAYS
SLEEP
TOGETHER
IN THE
TENT.

THAT'S
NOT THE
SAME
THING!

?!
2
4/7



WHUMPH

WE JUST
MOVED
OUR
CAMP-OUT
HERE.

YEAH,
BUT...
NOT
TOGETHER!

YOU
SAID YOU
WANTED TO SLEEP
IN A
BED.

...
!!



STAY
WITH
ME,
ALICE.

JUST A
LITTLE
LONGER.



Blank



CLOSE
?!

WE'RE
JUST...
CIVIL!

DON'T
FUCK
STUPID!

BUT YOU
SEEM TO
REALLY
TRUST
THE GUY.



WE WERE
LOST AND
HE KNEW THE
WAY OUT!
ANYONE
WOULD DO
THE SAME
THING!

YOU
DON'T
TRUST
ME?

YOU
GOT
US
LOST!

HOW
COULD I
POSSIBLY
TRUST
YOU ABOUT
DIRECTIONS?!



HUH?

SINCE
YOU'RE
ALREADY
HERE,
YOU CAN
SLEEP
WITH ME.

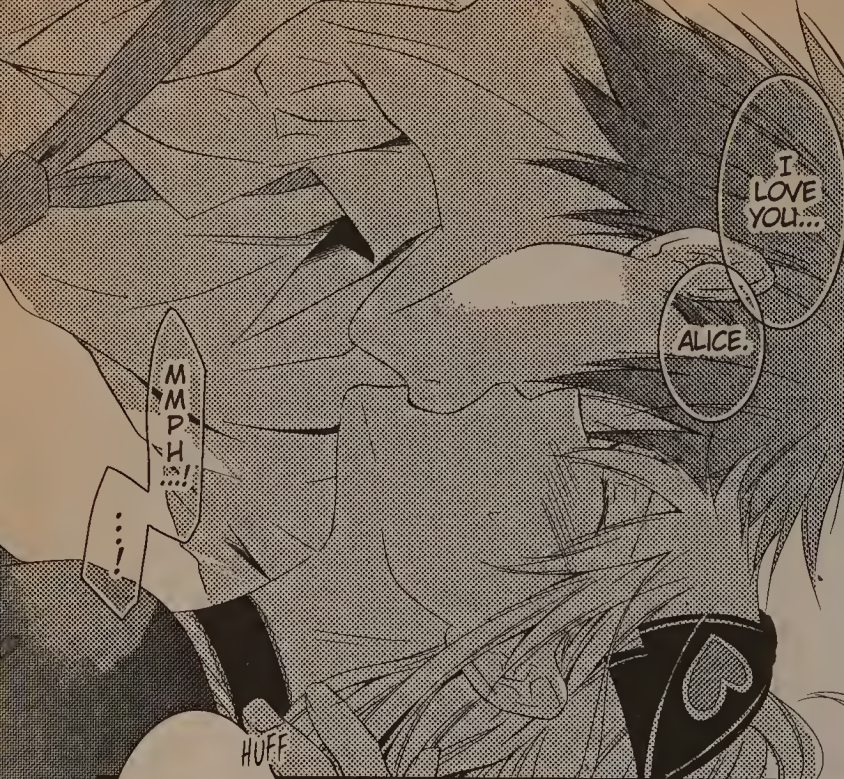
CLATTER

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU
THOUGHT
GRAY
AND I...
USE YOUR
HEAD,
ACE!

I'M
GOING
TO
BED.



THE
LIZARD.



I LOVE YOU....

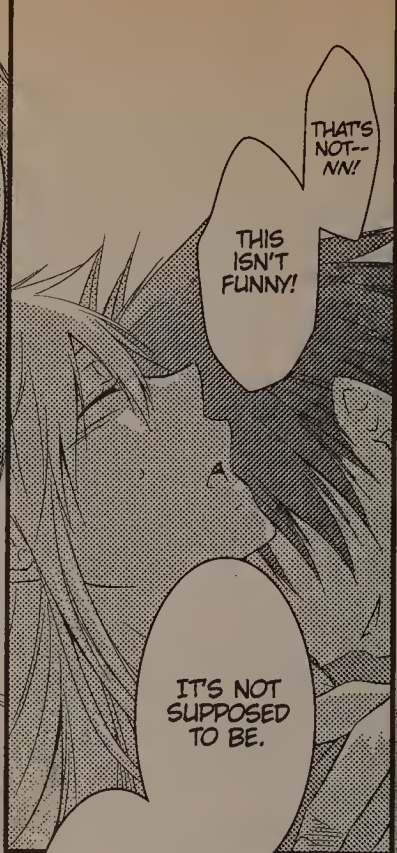
ALICE.

MMPH!

HUFF

I-I SHOULD TELL HIM TO STOP, BUT...

HUFF

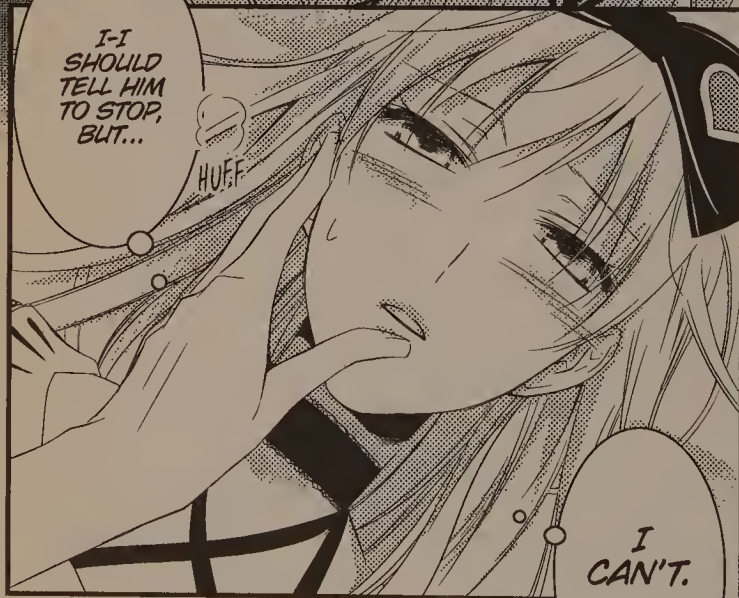


THAT'S NOT--
NN!

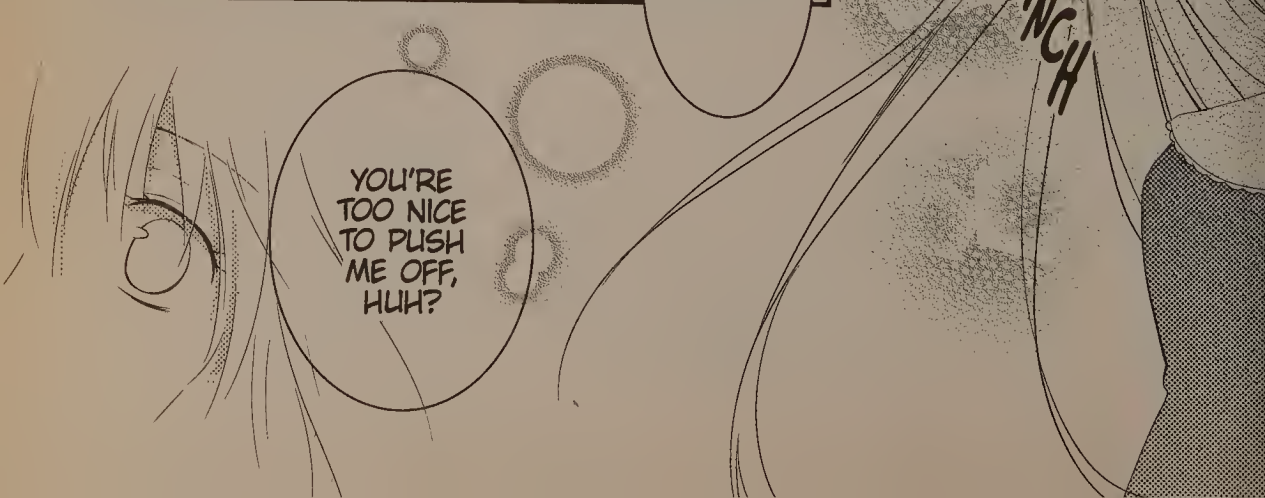
THIS ISN'T FUNNY!

IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE.

I LOVE YOU.



I CAN'T.



YOU'RE TOO NICE TO PUSH ME OFF, HUH?

FUNCH



Slip

!

MMPH...
A-ACE!

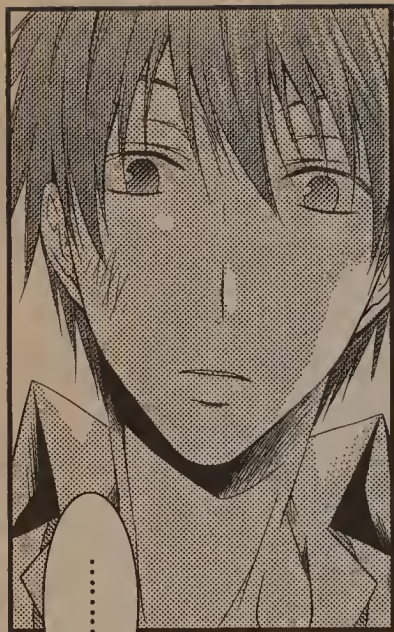
Y-
YOU'RE
ACTING
WEIRD!

WEIRD?
WHY IS IT
WEIRD?

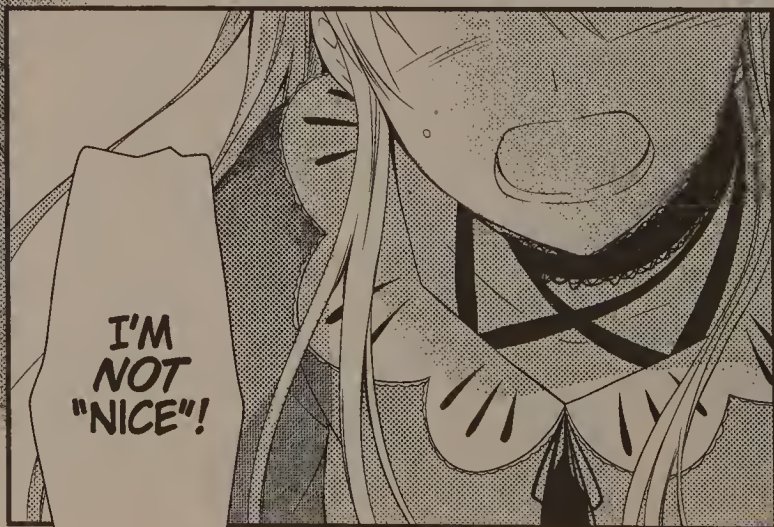
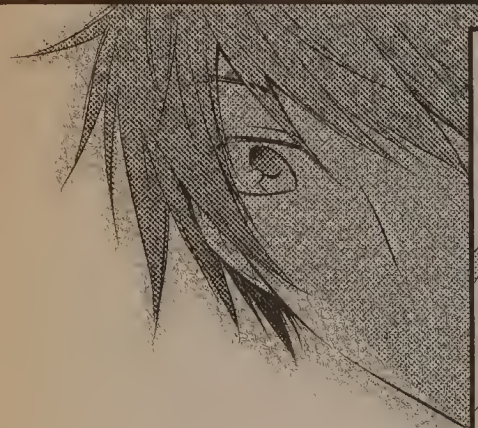
IT'S NOT
WEIRD TO
WANNA
TOUCH
THE GIRL
I LOVE.

I
WANNA
KEEP
YOU...
CLOSE.

STAY.



It's
Lila

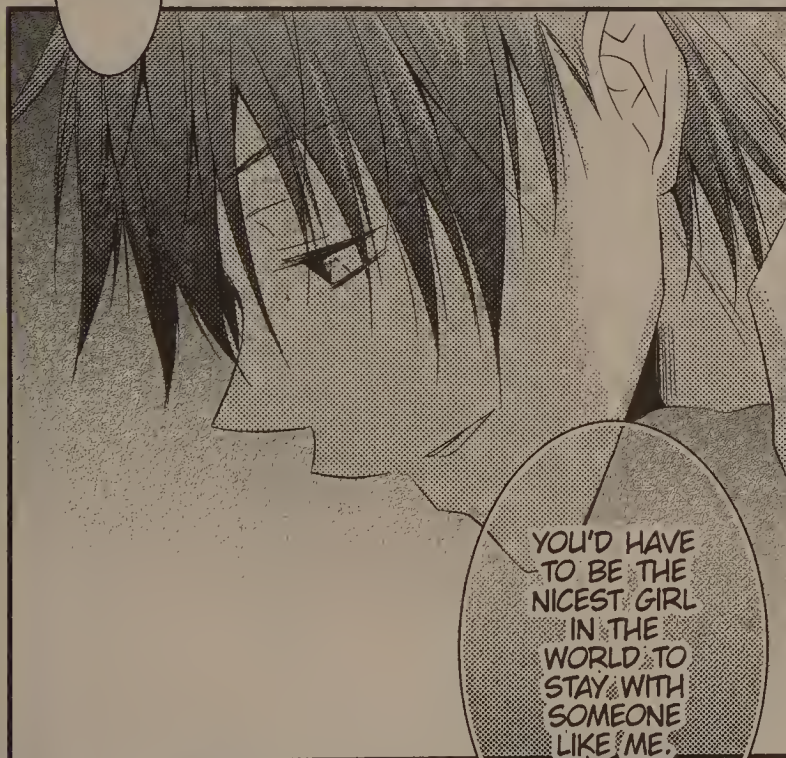


I'M
NOT
"NICE"!

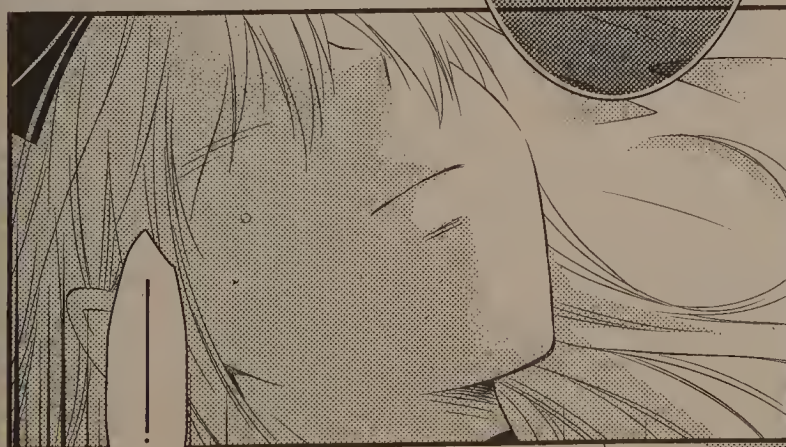


YOU SAY
YOU'RE NOT
CLOSE TO
THE LIZARD,
BUT YOU
FAWN OVER
HIM WHEN
HE BARELY
HELPS
YOU...

AND
NOW.



YOU'D HAVE
TO BE THE
NICEST GIRL
IN THE
WORLD TO
STAY WITH
SOMEONE
LIKE ME.



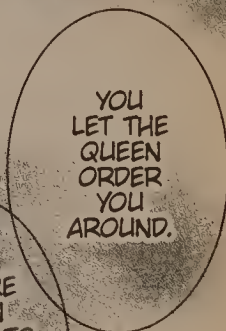
—
...
!



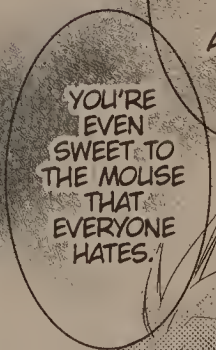
WHAT
?!



I
GET
IT.



YOU
LET THE
QUEEN
ORDER
YOU
AROUND.



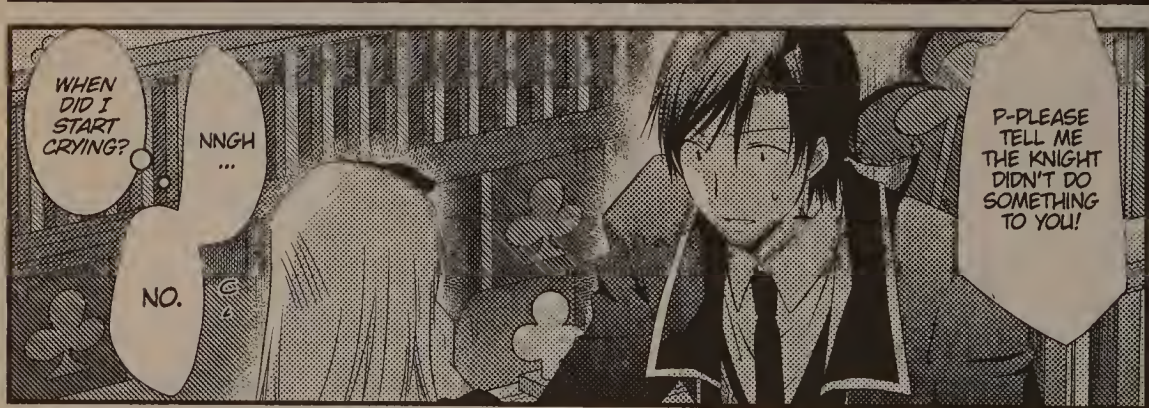
YOU'RE
EVEN
SWEET TO
THE MOUSE
THAT
EVERYONE
HATES.





!

HUH?



WHEN DID I START CRYING?

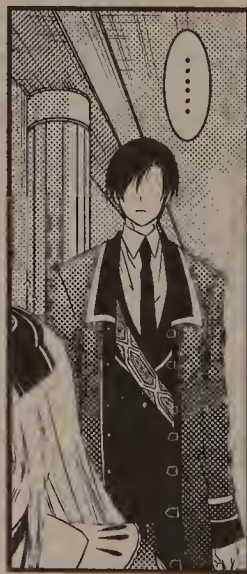
NNGH ...

NO.

P-PLEASE TELL ME THE KNIGHT DIDN'T DO SOMETHING TO YOU!

KA-CHUNK

BUT I KNOW WHAT THOSE TEARS WERE FOR.



.....



DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

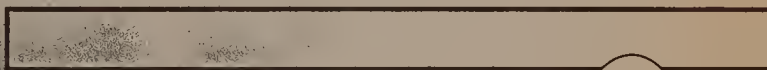


I'M... FINE. REALLY.

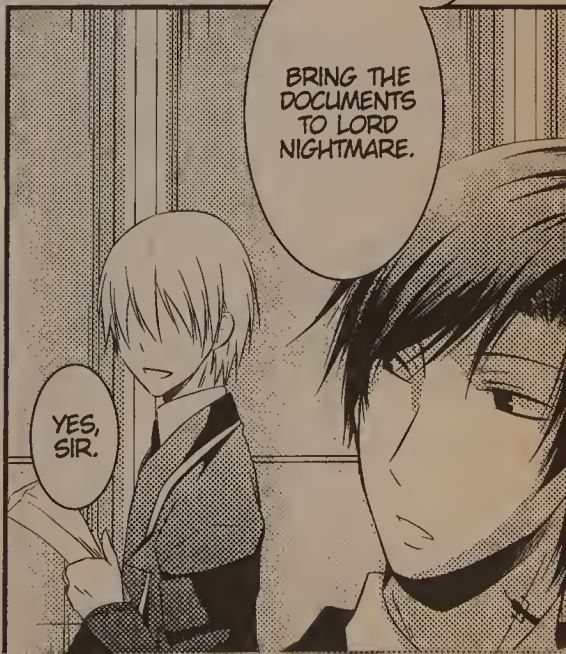
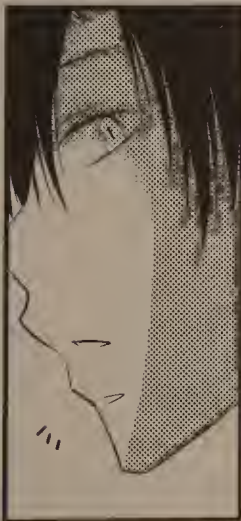
BUT--



STOMP
STOMP



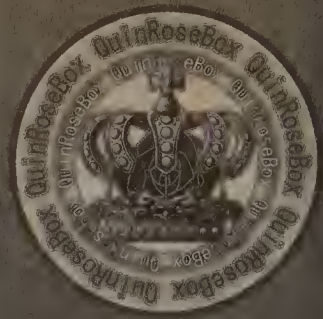
ALICE?



THEN
IT'S
FIXED.

BRING THE
DOCUMENTS
TO LORD
NIGHTMARE.

YES,
SIR.



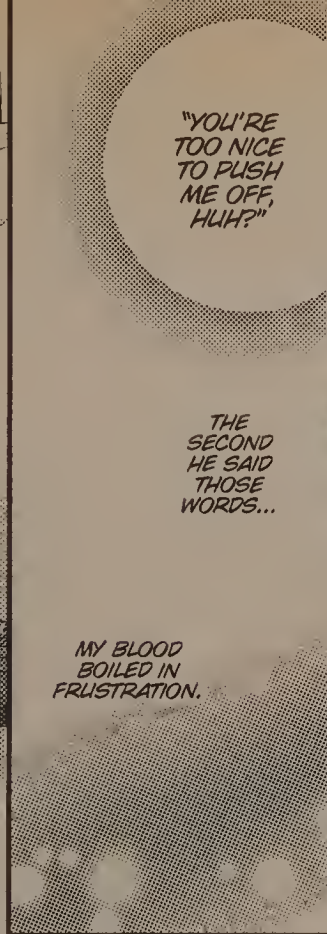
QuinRoseBox



I DON'T WANT
ACE TO THINK OF
ME AS
JUST BEING
NICE.

I HATE
IT BAD
ENOUGH
TO CRY.

WHY
DOES IT
HAVE TO
BE ACE,
OF ALL
PEOPLE?!



"YOU'RE
TOO NICE
TO PUSH
ME OFF,
HUH?"

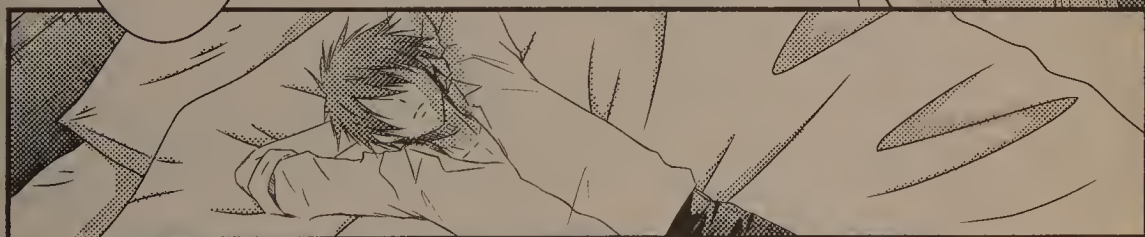
THE
SECOND
HE SAID
THOSE
WORDS...

MY BLOOD
BOILED IN
FRUSTRATION.



I WASN'T
SCARED
OF ACE.

HE
WASN'T
HURTING
ME.



...

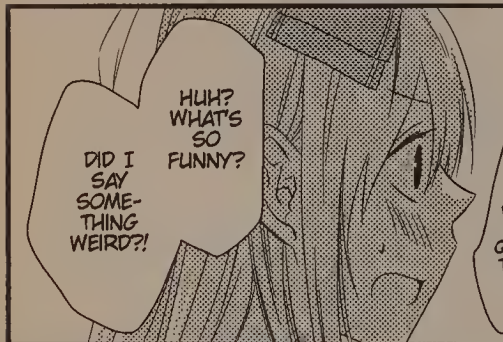
WHY
WON'T
YOU
LET HIM
QUIT?

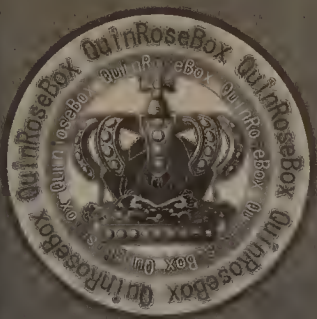
I THINK IT'S
OBVIOUS
ACE WANTS
A CAREER
CHANGE.



I
MEAN
...

ISN'T HE
USELESS
AROUND
HERE?





QuinRoseBox

MAYBE
I'M...

...ANOTHER
PART
DOESN'T.

JEAL-
OUS.

ACE.

EVEN
THOUGH A
PART OF
ME WANTS
THEM BACK
TOGETHER...

EVEN THE
STRONGEST
PERSON
ALIVE WOULD
START
LOSING
HOPE.

HE'D
GET
SICK OF
IT ALL.

TWISTED.

I'M
SCARED
THAT HIS
OPINION
OF ME IS
GETTING...

ACE...

I WISH
I COULD
BRING
JULIUS
BACK TO
YOU.

IF I
COULD
ACTUALLY
HELP
HIM.

SO I
DON'T
KNOW
...

SQUEEZE

HE
WON'T
EVEN
TELL ME
WHAT
HE'S
ACTUALLY
FEELING.

I
REALLY
DON'T.

I'M
LOST,
TOO.



THERE IS
NO FREE
WILL IN
CHOOSING
OR
LEAVING
ONE'S
ROLE.

NO.

THERE
IS NO
POINT IN
THINKING
SUCH
THINGS.

YOU
SPEAK
OF
CHOICE.

IF THERE
WAS A
WAY TO
ESCAPE
ONE'S
ROLE, WE
WOULD
ALSO...

THE
RULES
ARE
ETERNAL.

VIVALDI
LAUGHED
WHEN
SHE TOLD
ME THAT.

HE HAS
NO
CHOICE.
AND
NEITHER
...

DO
WE.

I THINK
A ROLE
IS LIKE
A LABY-
RINTH
YOU
CAN'T
ESCAPE.

ACE WAS
ALREADY
WORKING
IN A ROLE
HE'D
PICKED
FOR
HIMSELF.

ACE
DEPENDS
ON JULIUS
FOR HIS
ONLY
FREEDOM.
AND NOW
THAT
JULIUS IS
GONE...

BUT
EVERY-
BODY
STILL
CONSID-
ERED
HIM THE
KNIGHT
OF
HEARTS.

GOD.

THAT
WOULD
BE
HARD
FOR ANY-
ONE.



THIS IS
SO
AWKWARD.

RIGHT.

UH...

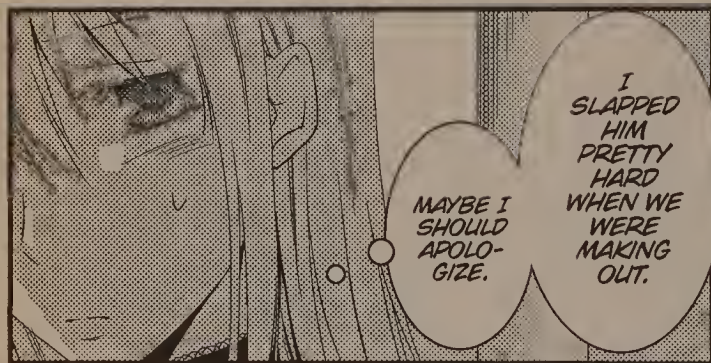
I HOPE
IT ENDS
QUICK.



ACE...

YO!

MORE
ASSEMBLY.
LUCKY US.



MAYBE I
SHOULD
APOLO-
GIZE.

I
SLAPPED
HIM
PRETTY
HARD
WHEN WE
WERE
MAKING
OUT.



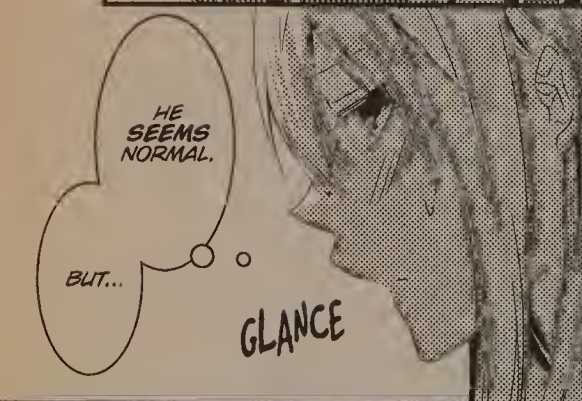
open
close



HM?

ACE?

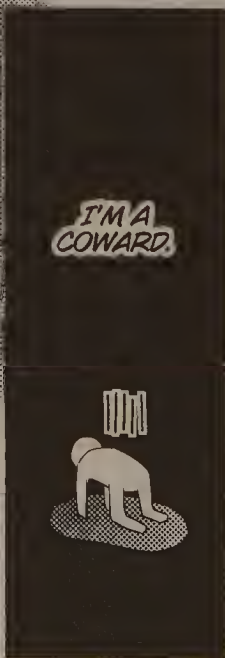
UM.



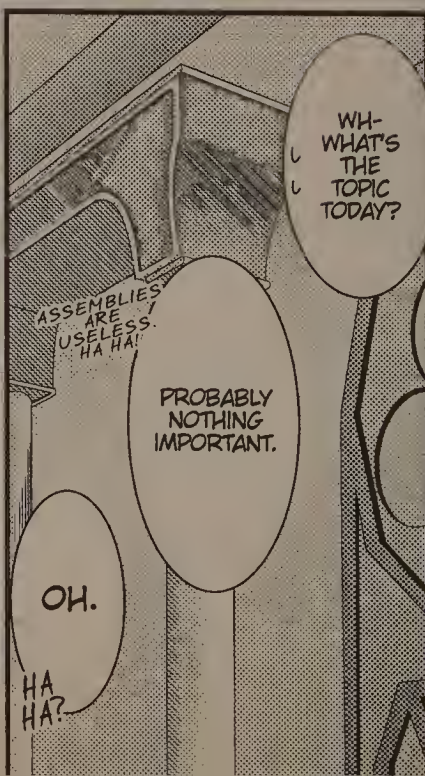
HE
SEEMS
NORMAL.

BUT...

GLANCE



I'M A
COWARD.



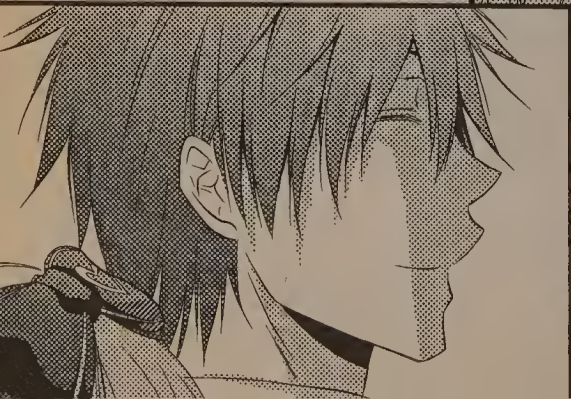
WH-
WHAT'S
THE
TOPIC
TODAY?

ASSEMBLIES
ARE
USELESS.
HA HA!

PROBABLY
NOTHING
IMPORTANT.

OH.

HA
HA?



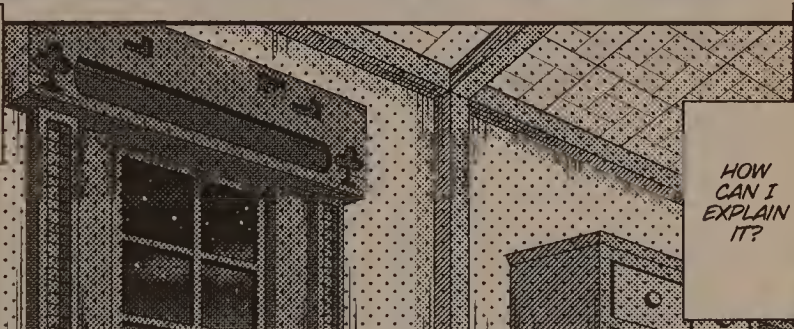


"I LOVE YOU."

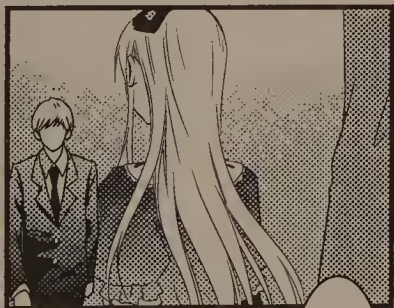
I'M SO
CONFUSED.

WHEN
HE SAID
THOSE
WORDS...
THEY
DIDN'T
FEEL
REAL.

HIS
FOCUS
IS
BLURRY.
IT WAS
ALMOST
LIKE...



BUT
THEY
DIDN'T
FEEL
LIKE A
LIE,
EITHER.
HOW
CAN I
EXPLAIN
IT?



HEY!

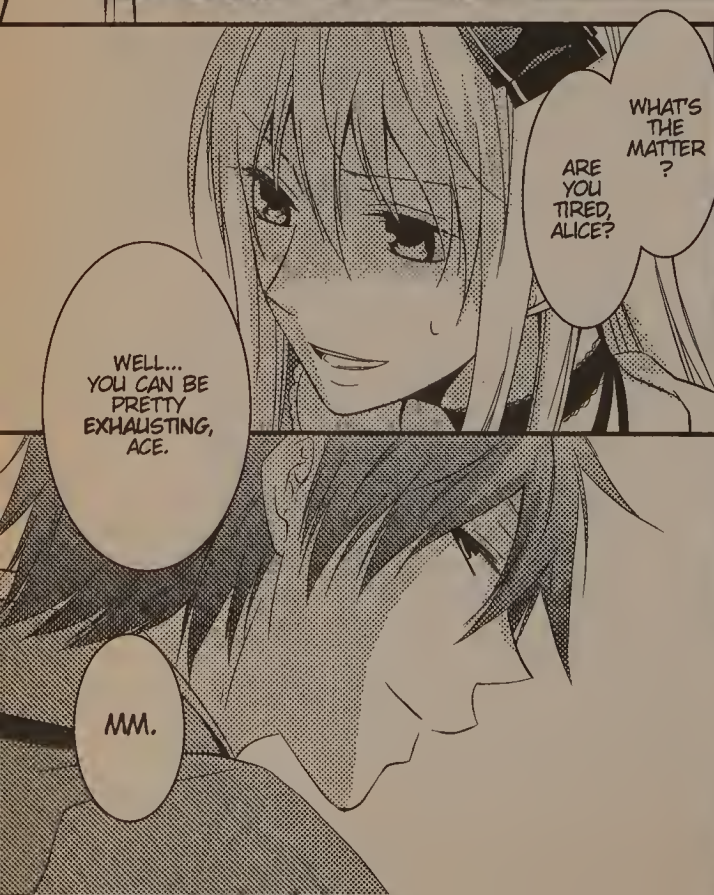
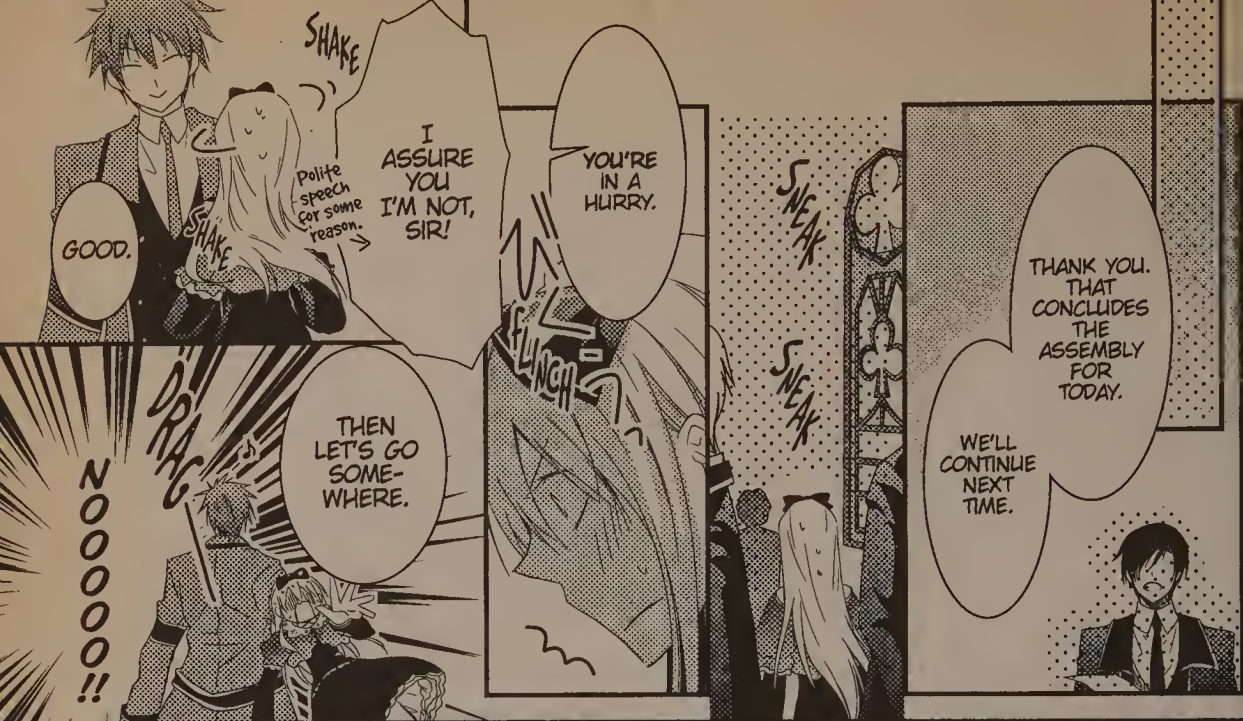
PAT

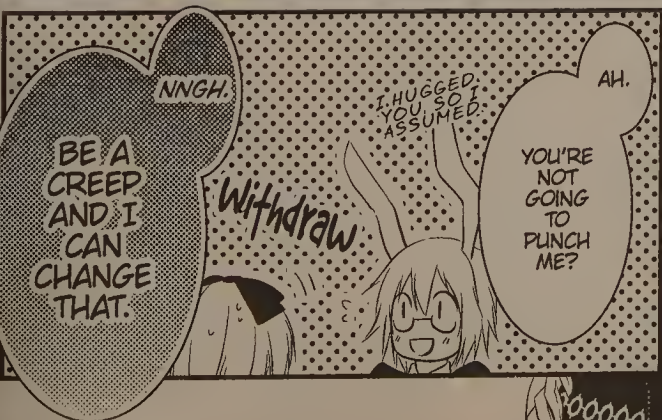
FLINCH

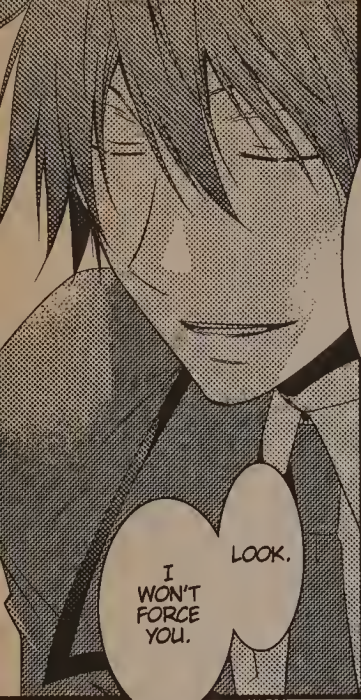


EVEN
THOUGH
WHILE
HE SAID
THAT...

HE WAS
STARING
STRAIGHT
AT ME.







HA HA HA!
THEN
IT'S ALL
RIGHT IF
WE'RE
INSIDE?

I
WON'T
FORCE
YOU.
LOOK.

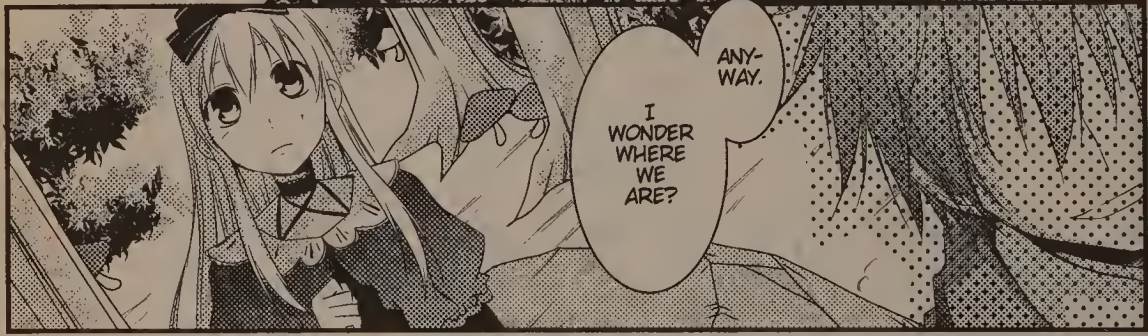


WE'RE
OUTSIDE!

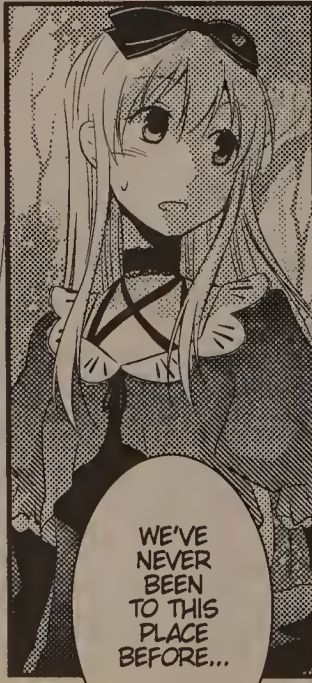
NO!
NO
NO
NO
NO!
ARE YOU
OUT
OF
YOUR
MIND
?!



N
....



ANY-
WAY.
I
WONDER
WHERE
WE
ARE?



WE'VE
NEVER
BEEN
TO THIS
PLACE
BEFORE...



NAH...
KNIGHTS
CAN'T
SECOND-
GUESS
THEIR
DECISIONS.

PLEASE
STOP
BEING
STUPID.

M-MAYBE
WE SHOULD
GO BACK
TO THAT
THREE-WAY
FORK.



HEY!



HA
HA!



WHEN
WE
WERE
IN
BED.

BUT I
STOPPED
BEFORE
THE REAL
EXERCISE!



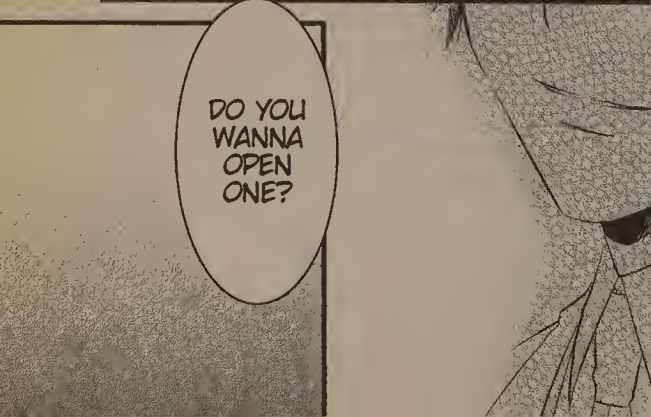
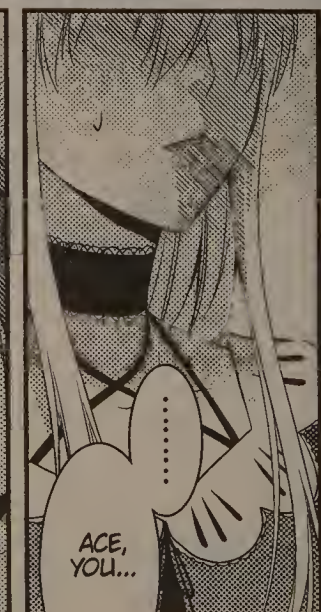
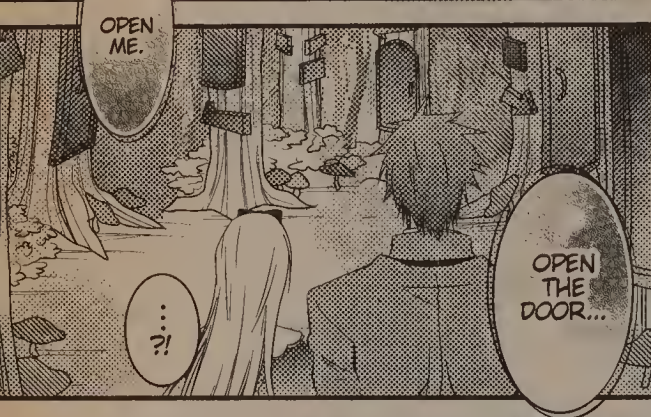
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!

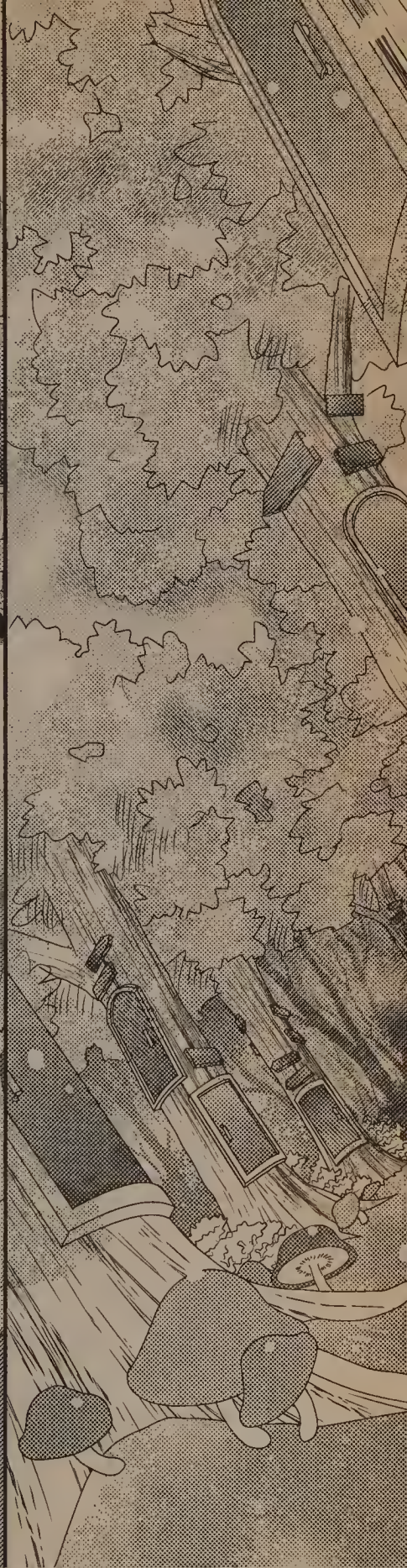


TUG

LET'S
TAKE A
CHANCE
...

AND
GO
FOR
IT.





THIS PLACE
IS GETTING
BORING.
LET'S HEAD
THIS WAY.

I--

HUH
...?

GRIN

WAIT!

BUT
THAT'S
....

RUSTLE
RUSTLE

THIS
ISN'T
EVEN
A PATH!

GRIN

WE
BARELY
MADE IT
TO THE
NEXT
ASSEMBLY.

SIT...

I
NEED
TO
SIT.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
HOW LONG
WE WERE
WANDERING.
AND WE
ALMOST DIED
A BUNCH
OF TIMES.

WOBBLE

WIPED
IT!!

IT'S
BECAUSE
OF YOU.

IT'S
BECAUSE
OF YOU,
ACE.

IF...

IF I'M
REALLY
LOST...

YOU CAN
HEAR
THEM,
RIGHT?

SURE
YOU
CAN.

I CAN'T
PROCESS
YOU.

I WISH I
JUST...

THEN
WHAT
DID HE
MEAN?

I'M
GLAD
THAT
YOU'RE
HERE.

D...DID
I SAY
SOME-
THING?!

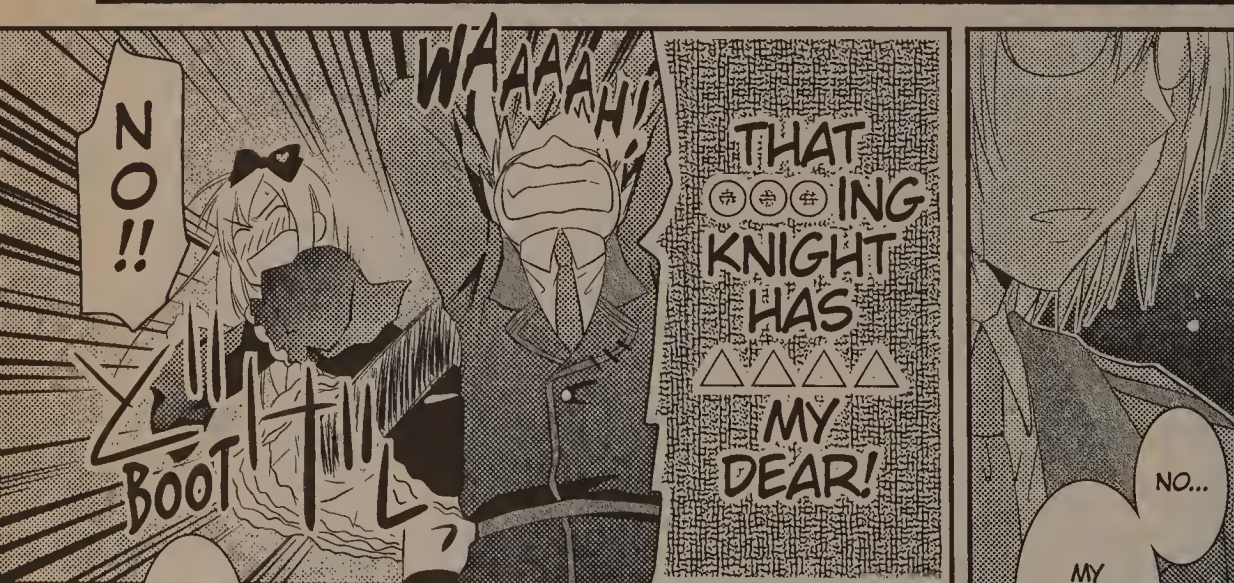
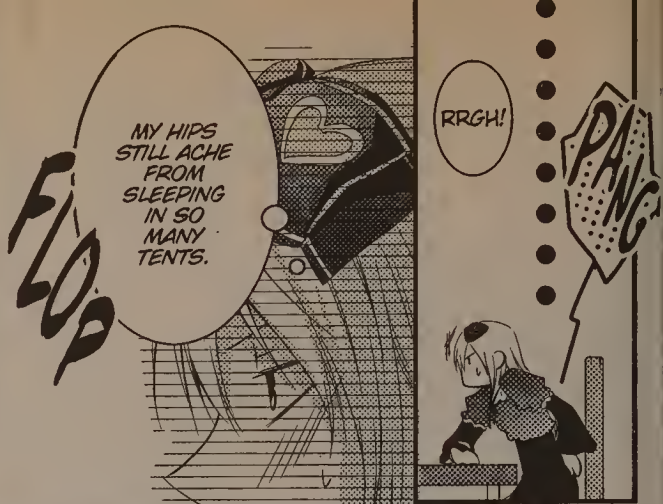
DID I
SAY
THAT
OUT
LOUD?!

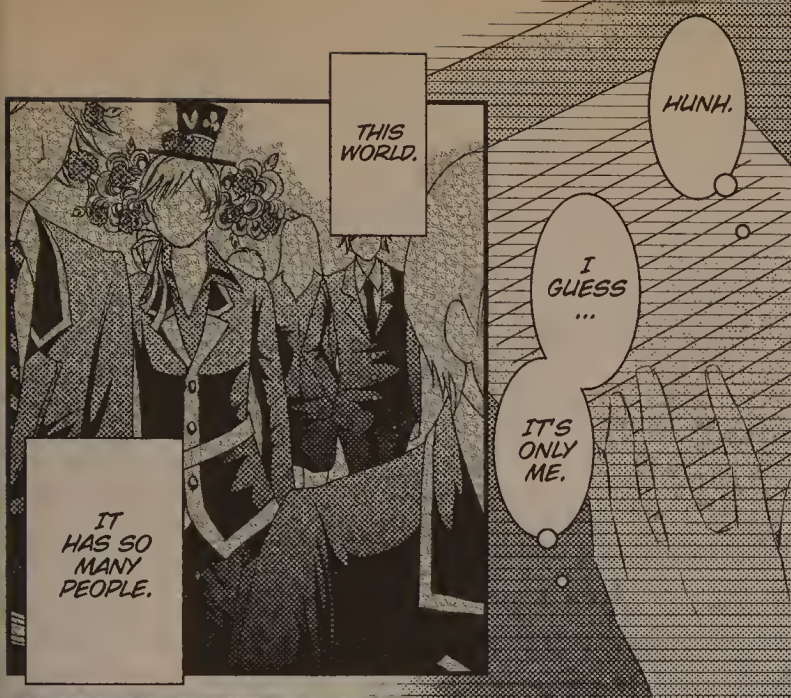
NOPE!

ACE... ♪

I LOVE
THAT
PART OF
YOU.

HUH?





THIS
WORLD.

HUINH.

I
GUESS
...

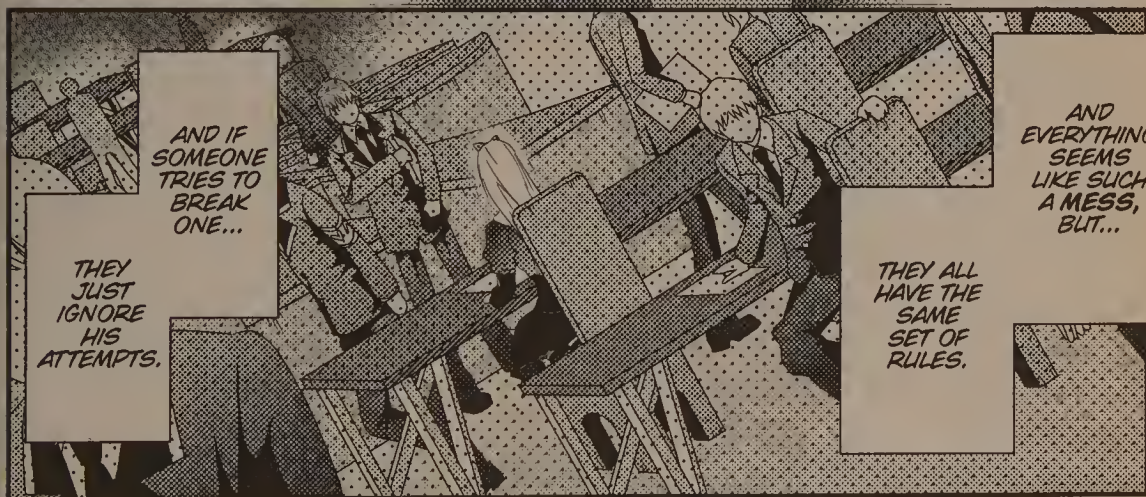
IT'S
ONLY
ME.

IT
HAS SO
MANY
PEOPLE.



"I'M
GLAD
THAT
YOU'RE
HERE."

!



AND IF
SOMEONE
TRIES TO
BREAK
ONE...

THEY
JUST
IGNORE
HIS
ATTEMPTS.

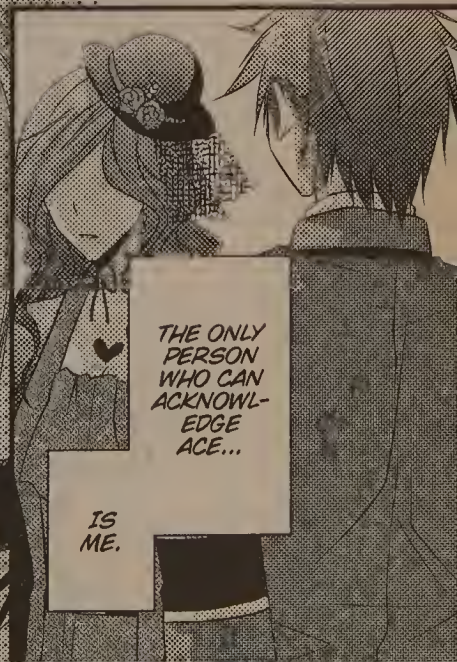
AND
EVERYTHING
SEEMS
LIKE SUCH
A MESS,
BUT...

THEY ALL
HAVE THE
SAME
SET OF
RULES.

HE'S
ATTACHED
HIMSELF
TO ME.

JUST
ME.

AND NO
ONE
ELSE.



THE ONLY
PERSON
WHO CAN
ACKNOWLEDGE
ACE...

IS
ME.



IT MAKES SENSE, I SUPPOSE. YOU'RE A VERY KIND GIRL.

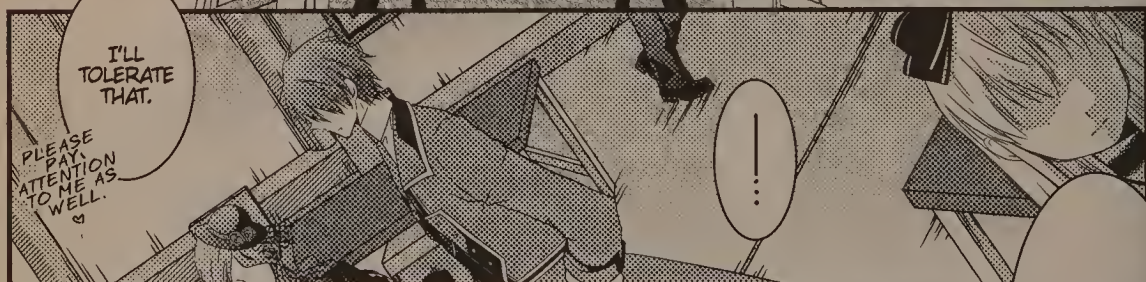
THEN ALL YOU FEEL FOR HIM IS PITY.

I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM.

I CAN'T DO THAT.

OH?

PITY?



I'LL TOLERATE THAT.

PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO ME AS WELL.

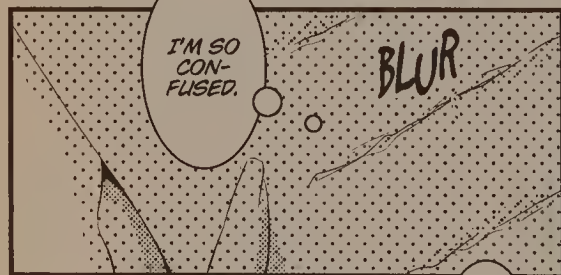
—



I COULDN'T DENY IT.

WOBBLE

PITY?



I'M SO CONFUSED.

BLUR

WOBBLE

I...

HUH?



THE ASSEMBLY IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

TAKE YOUR SEATS!

I'M SO...

STUPID.

ACE COULD'VE HEARD US FROM THERE.

BUT...

NOW.

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THAT ADDLE-BRAINED KNIGHT?

I PROMISE
I'D
BRING YOU
MORE
LOVE AND
DELIGHT.

PAT

PAT

YOU'VE SEEMED SO DEPRESSED AS OF LATE.

I'M PLEASED YOU'RE FEELING HAPPIER.

PETER!

IF YOU DON'T LOVE HIM, THEN ABANDON HIM IMMEDIATELY. HE'S TROUBLE.

BUT ...

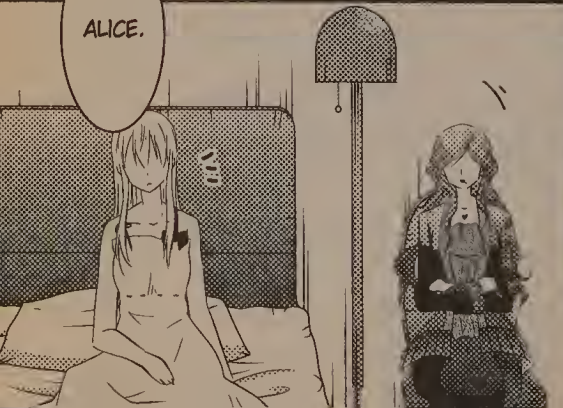
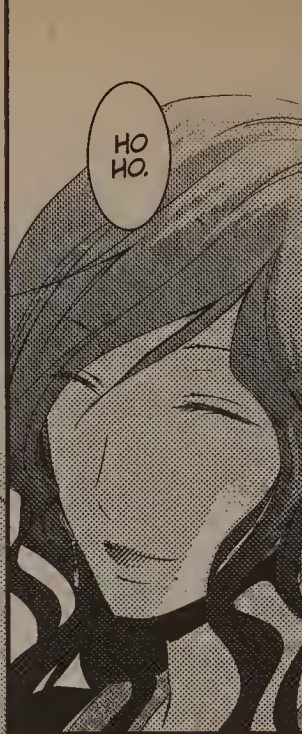
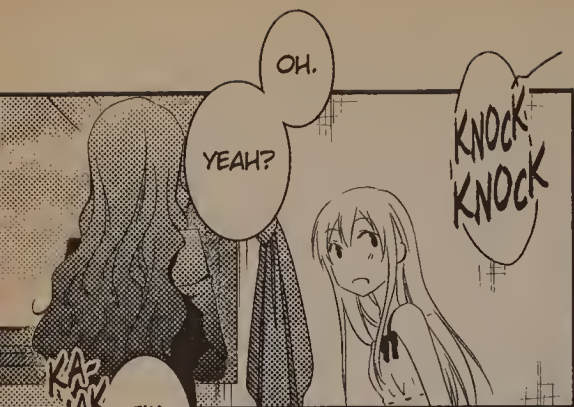
BUT I WORRY FOR YOUR SANITY, MY DEAR.

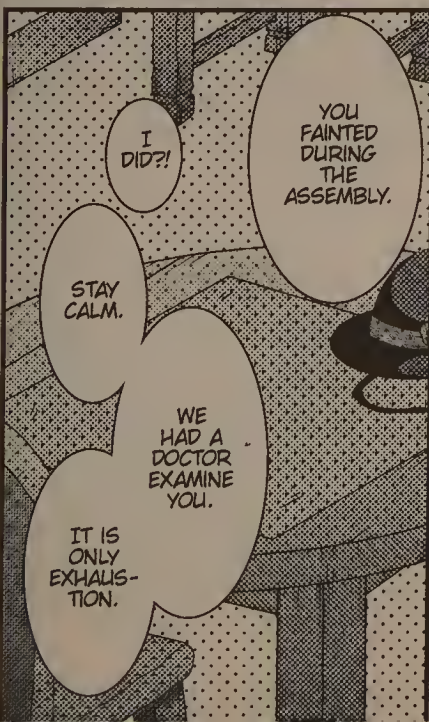
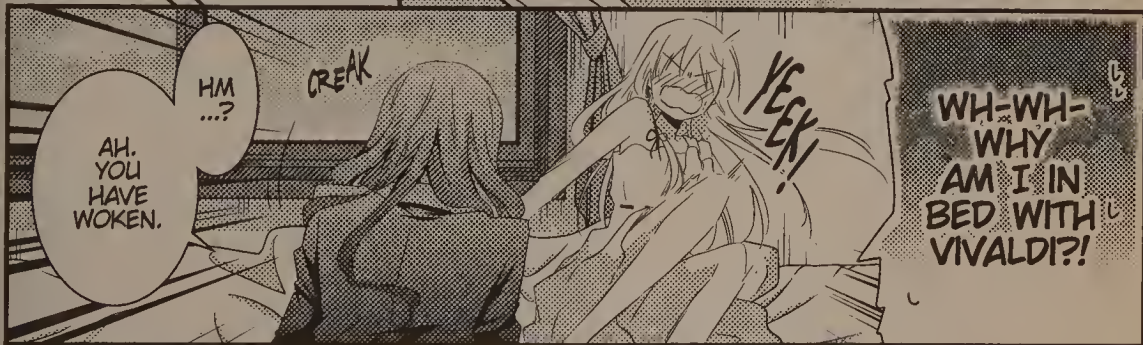
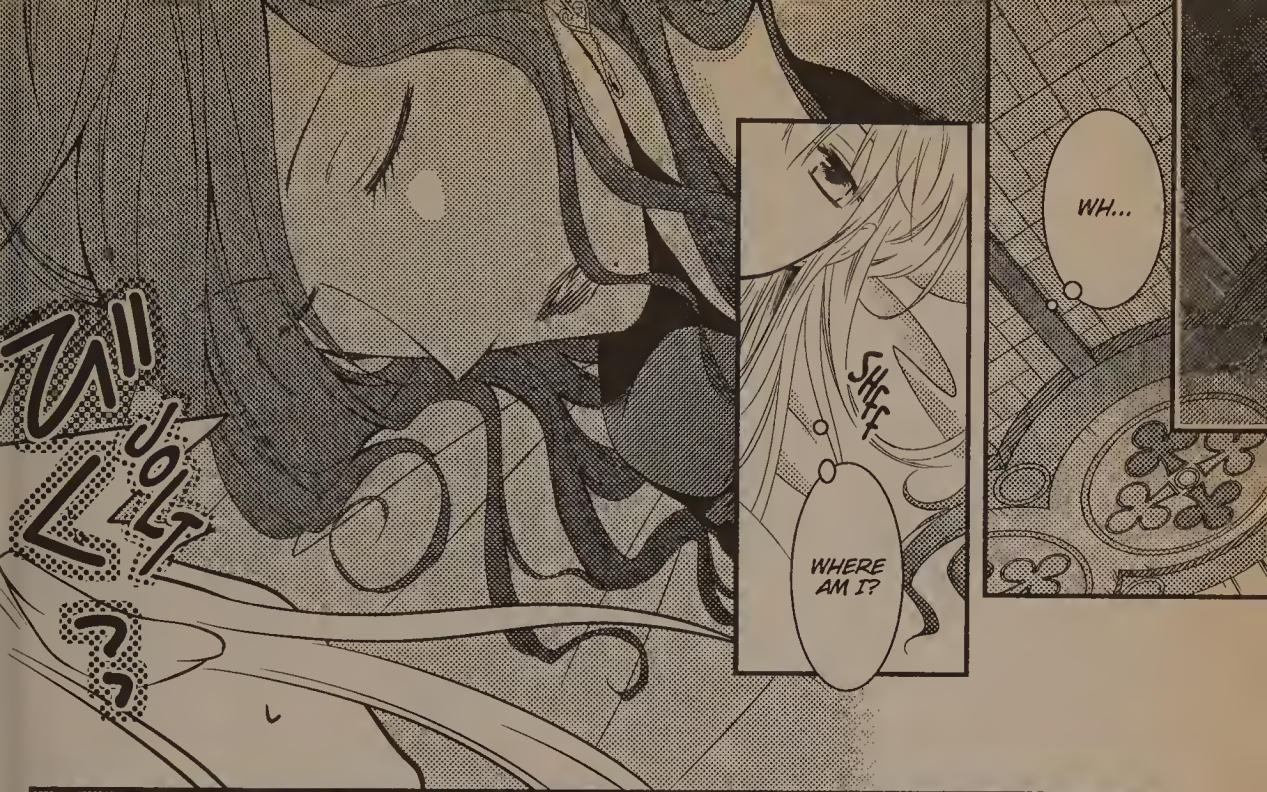
YOU LOOK EXHAUSTED ALREADY.

WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING ?!

THAT YOU LOVE HIM.

WHY ELSE WOULD YOU FOLLOW THAT OAF?







I'VE
SEEN HOW
VIOLENT
HE CAN
BE.

ACE
COULD
HURT
ME.

WAIT.

WAIT.

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
ME?

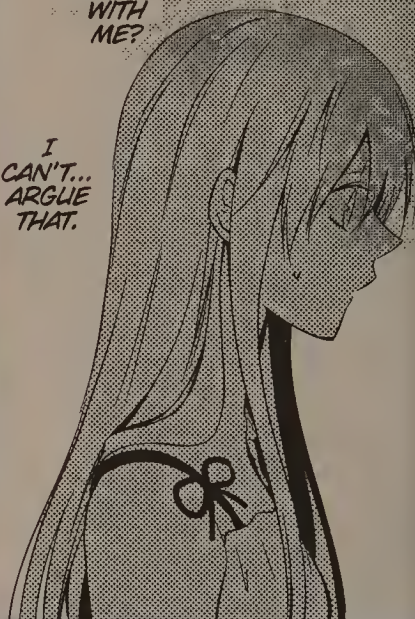
IS A
THOUGHT.

IF I
DISAPPEARED...

BUT
WHAT
BOTHERS
ME
MORE...

WHAT
BOTHERS
ME
EVEN
MORE
THAN
THAT...

I
CAN'T...
ARGUE
THAT.



AND FOR
SOME
REASON,
RIGHT
NOW...

I NEED TO
KNOW THAT
MORE THAN
ANYTHING.

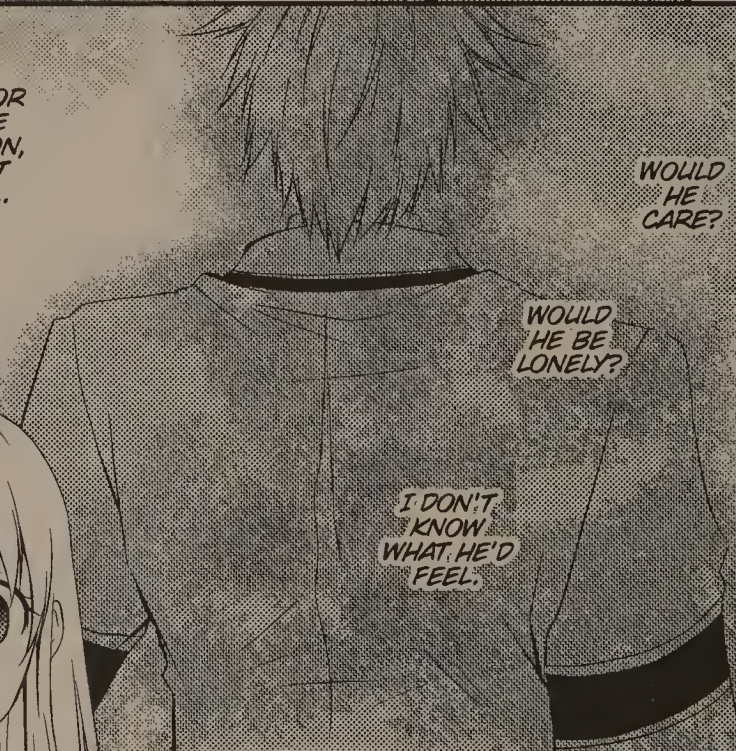
ARE YOU
LISTENING
TO ME,
ALICE?!

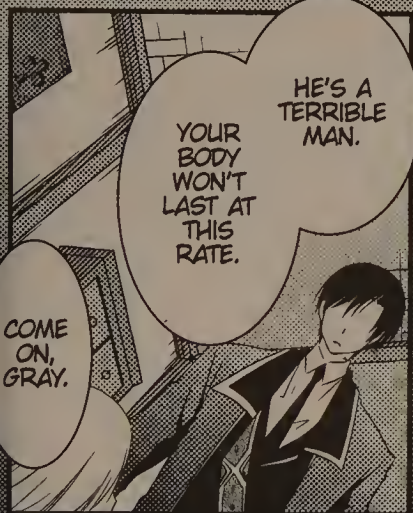
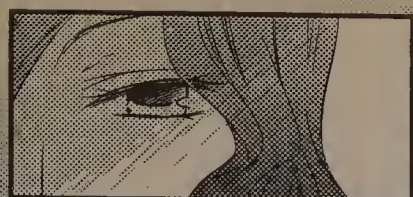
OH.

WOULD
HE
CARE?

WOULD
HE BE
LONELY?

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT HE'D
FEEL.





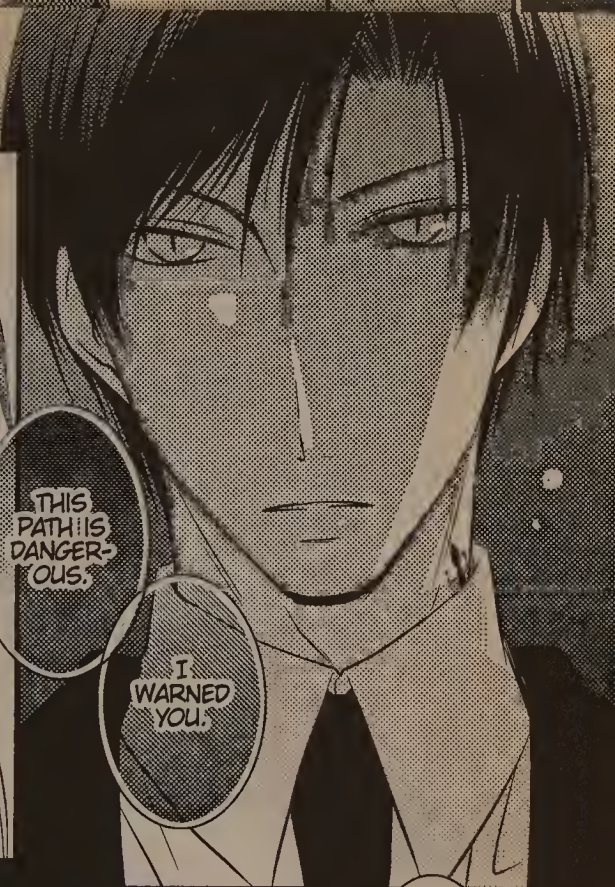
COME ON, GRAY.

YOUR BODY WON'T LAST AT THIS RATE.

HE'S A TERRIBLE MAN.

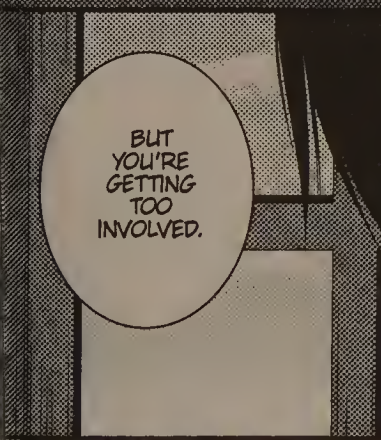


!

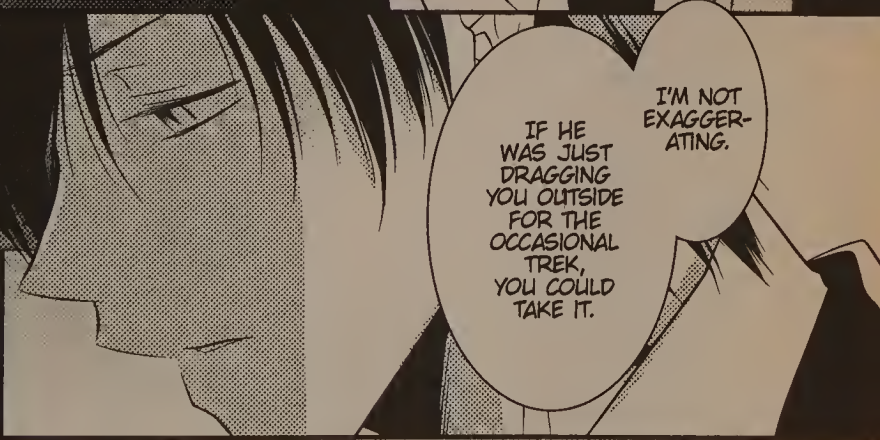


THIS PATH IS DANGEROUS.

I WARNED YOU.



BUT YOU'RE GETTING TOO INVOLVED.



IF HE WAS JUST DRAGGING YOU OUTSIDE FOR THE OCCASIONAL TREK, YOU COULD TAKE IT.

I'M NOT EXAGGERATING.



.....

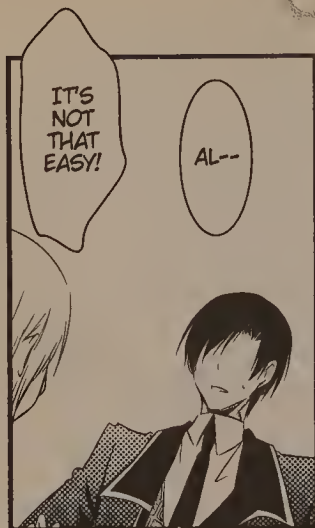


I...

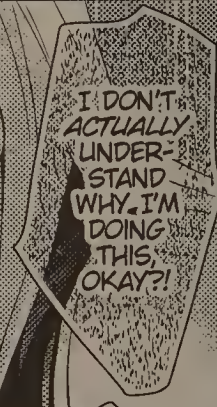
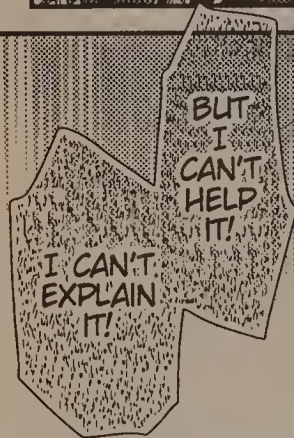
THAT'S THE KIND OF MAN HE IS.

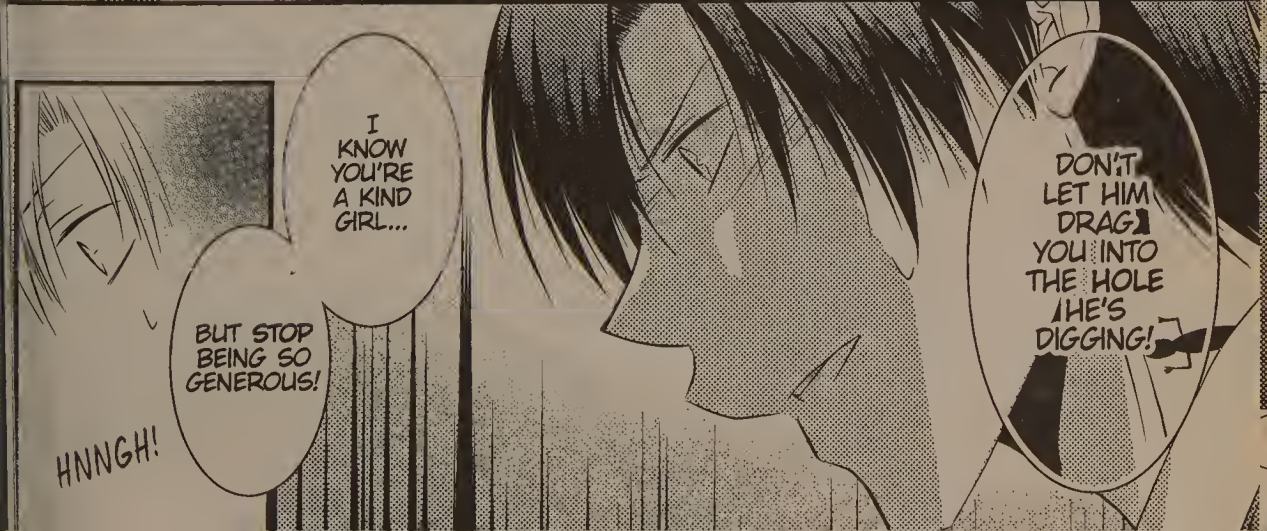
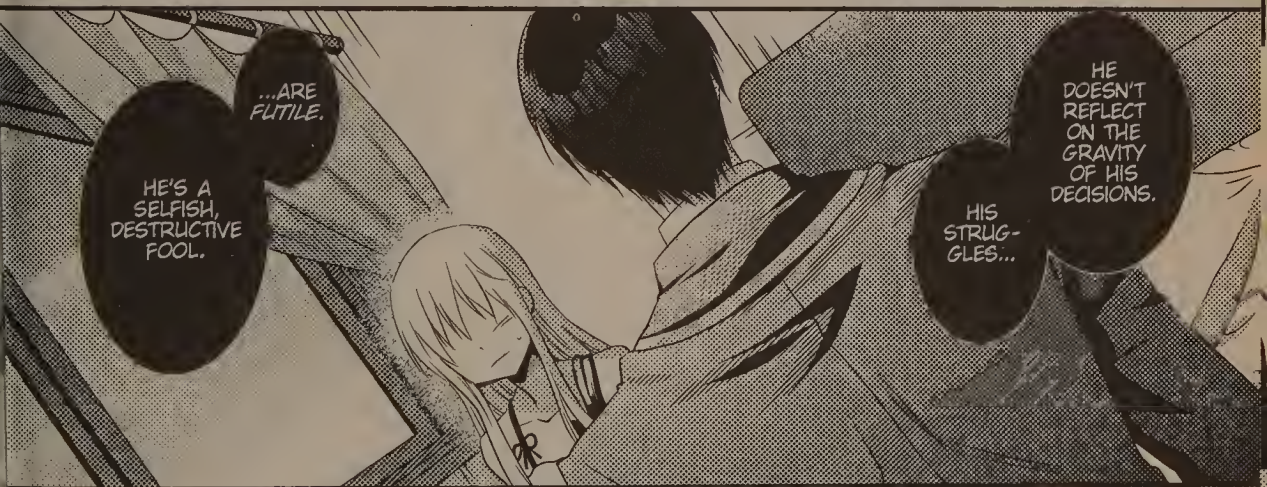
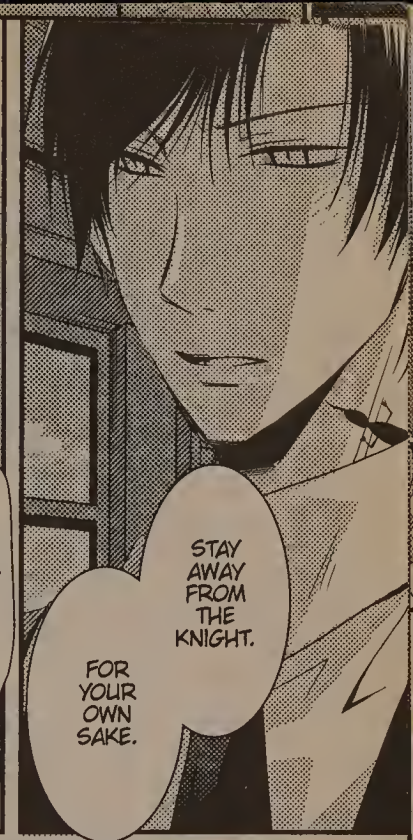
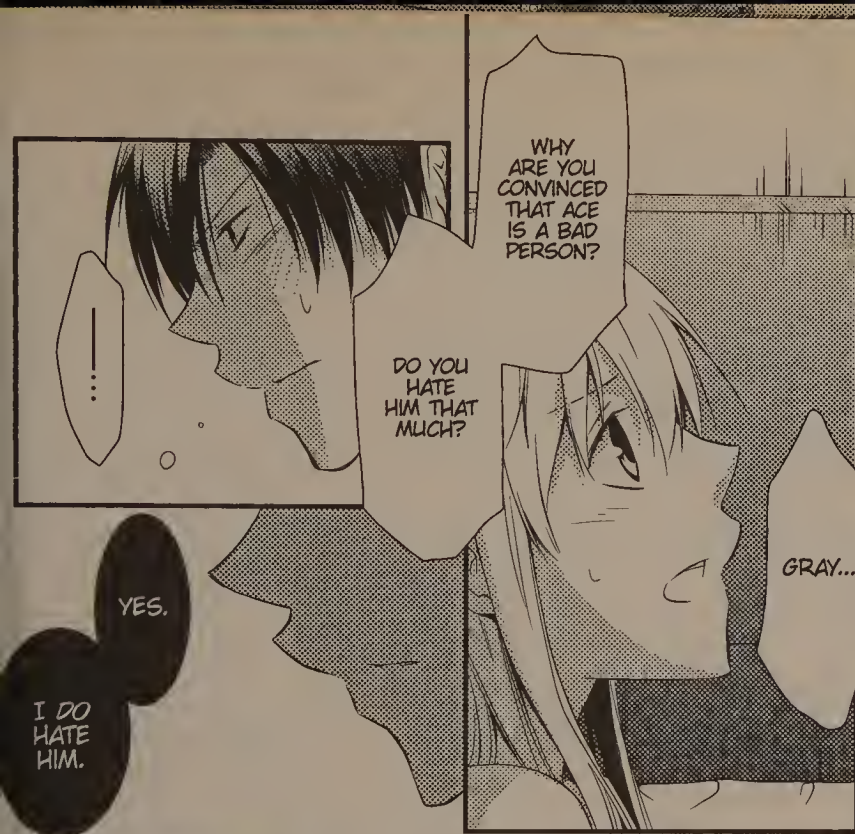
THE WORSE IT WILL GET.

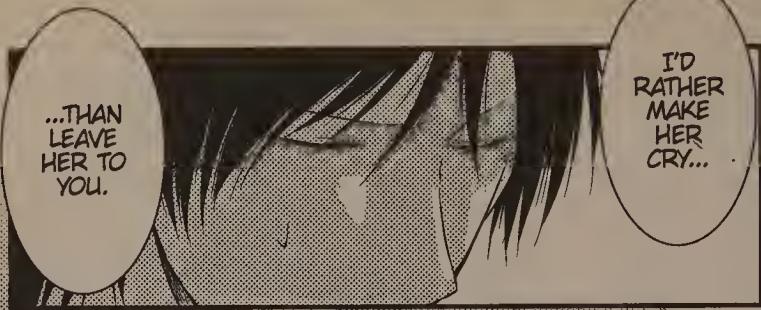
HE'S CAPABLE OF HURTING YOU. AND THE LONGER YOU'RE WITH HIM...



DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

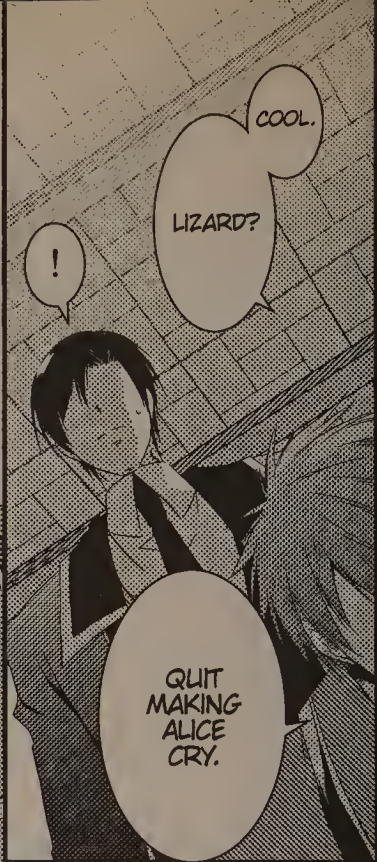






...THAN
LEAVE
HER TO
YOU.

I'D
RATHER
MAKE
HER
CRY...



COOL.

LIZARD?

!

QUIT
MAKING
ALICE
CRY.

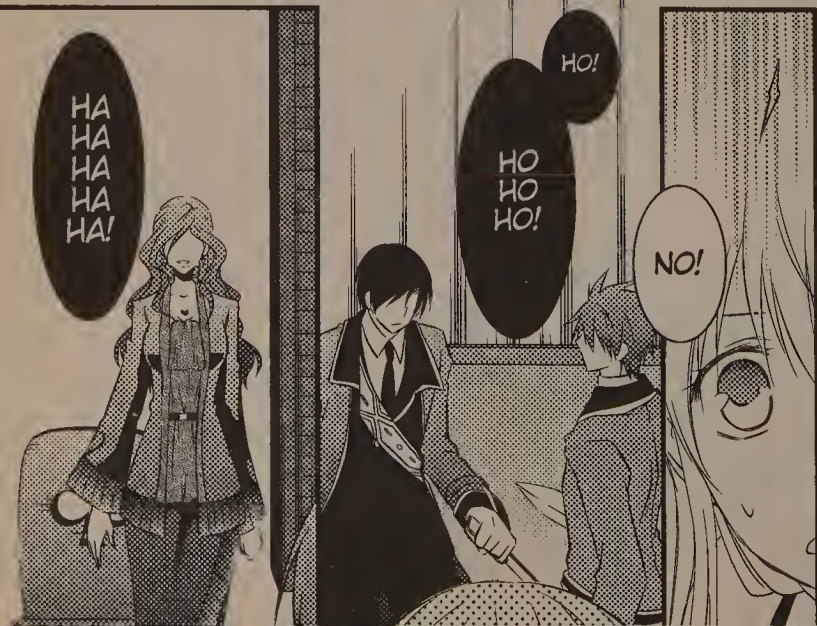


SHE
SAID
SHE
WANTS
ME,
SO I'M
JUST
GIVING
HER
WHAT
SHE
WANTS.

HEY,
MAN.
I'M
NOT
FORCING
HER.



SO
SHUT
YOUR
DIRTY
LIZARD
TRAP.

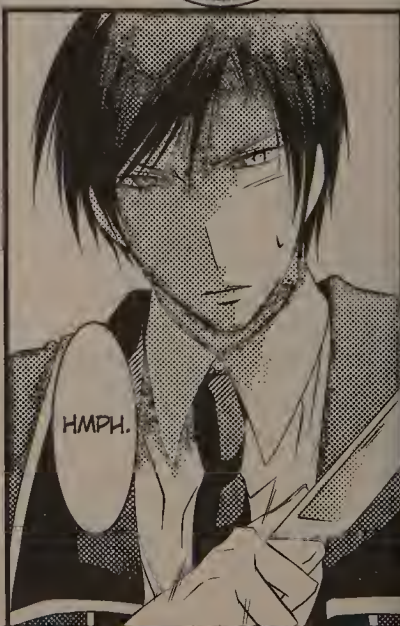


HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!

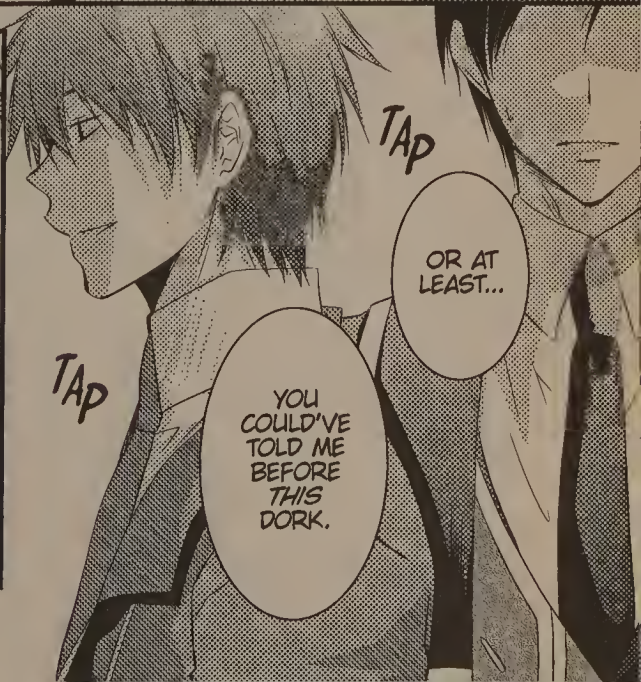
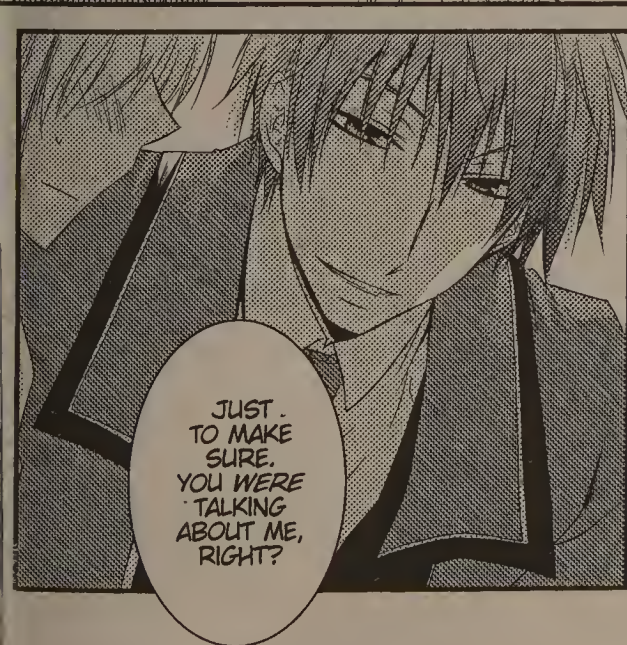
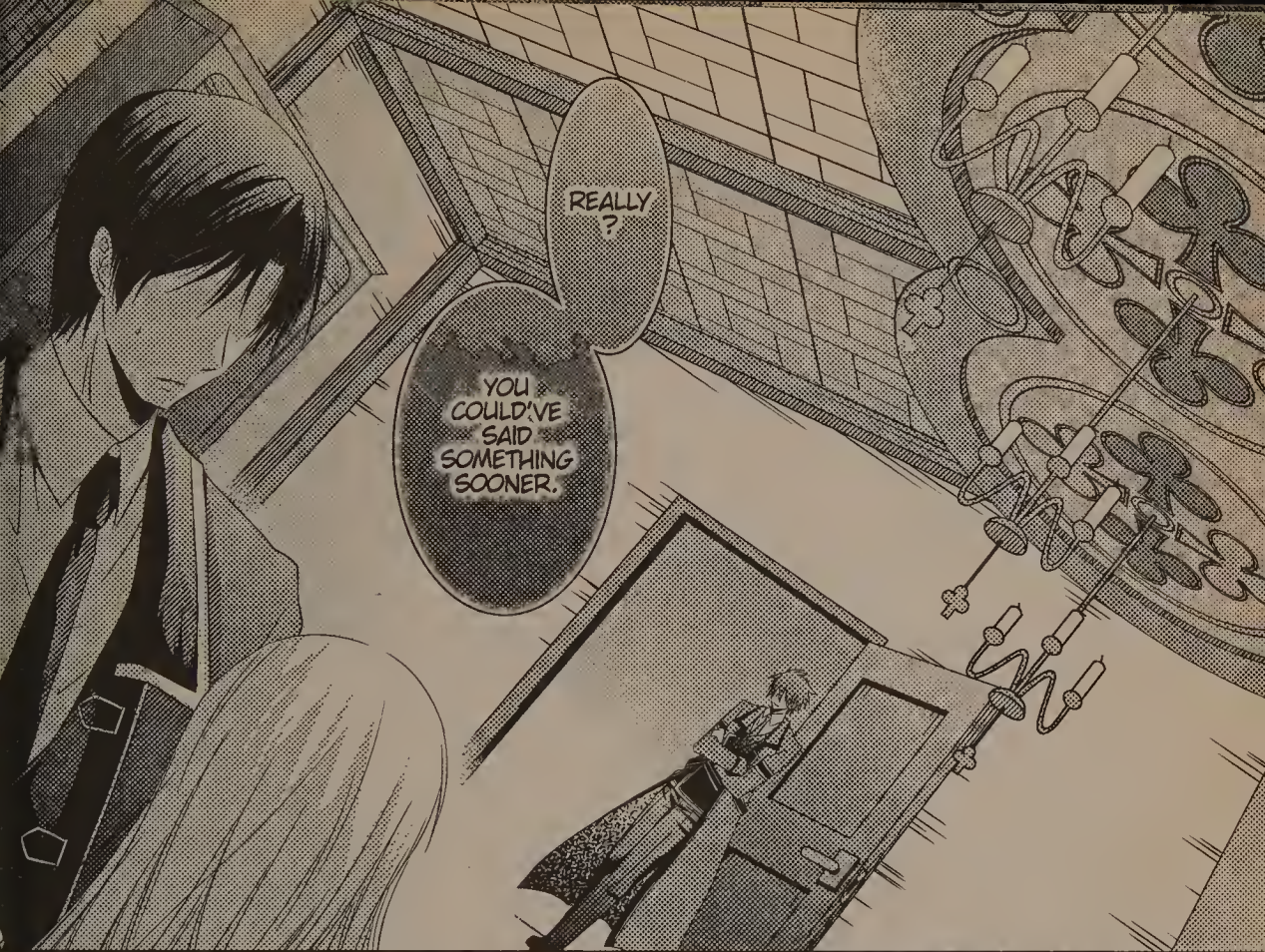
HO
HO
HO!

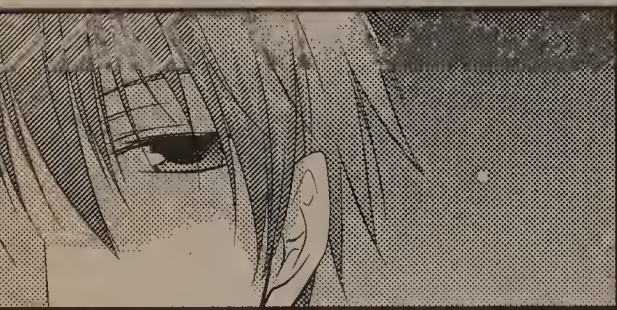
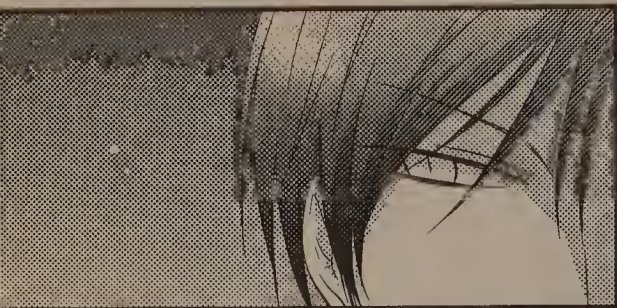
HO!

NO!

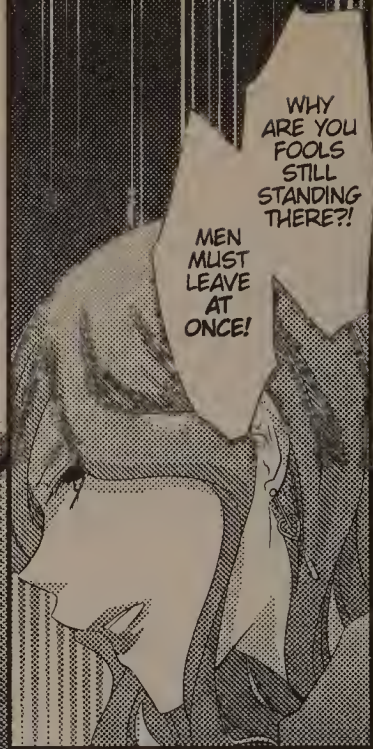


HMPH.



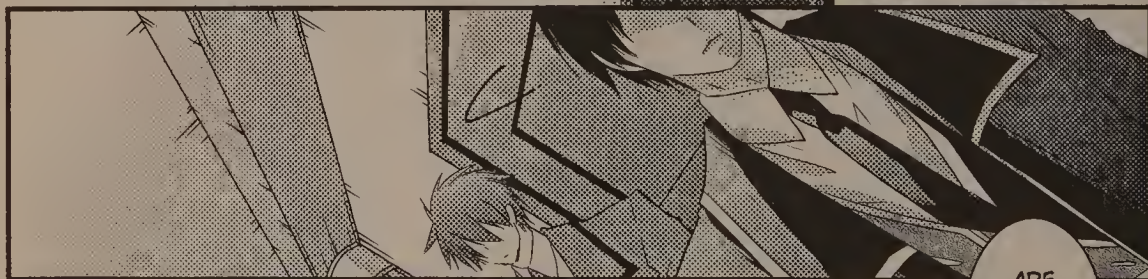


SLAM



WHY
ARE YOU
FOOLS
STILL
STANDING
THERE?!

MEN
MUST
LEAVE
AT
ONCE!



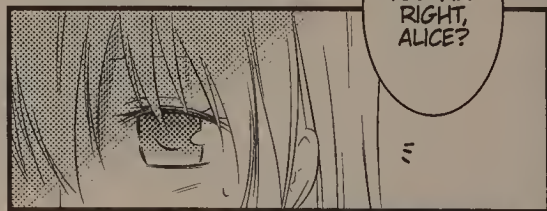
ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT,
ALICE?



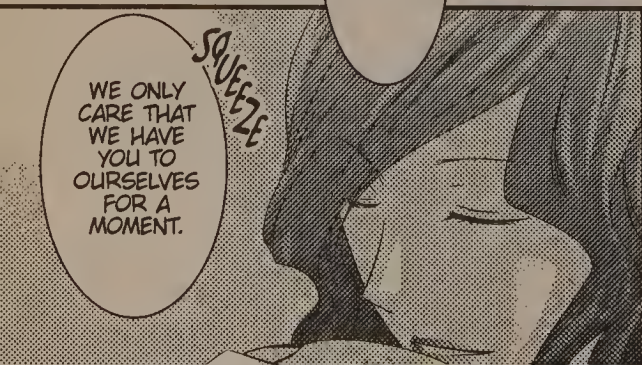
OH!

I-I'M
SORRY.
I'M
SWEATING
ON
YOU!

NO
MATTER.



...

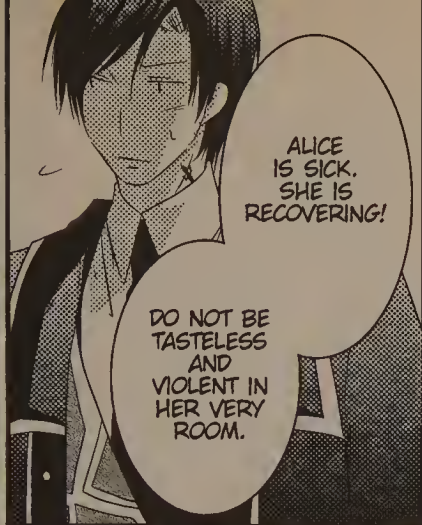
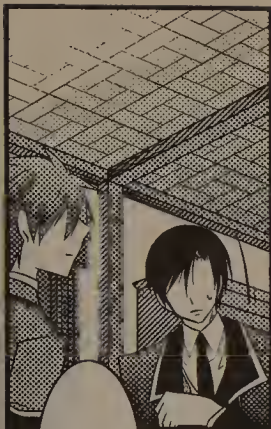


WE ONLY
CARE THAT
WE HAVE
YOU TO
OURSELVES
FOR A
MOMENT.

SQUEEZE



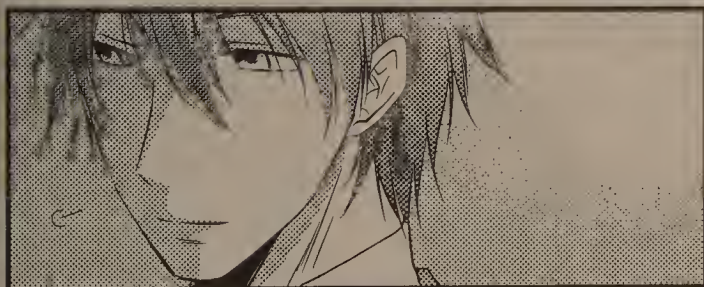
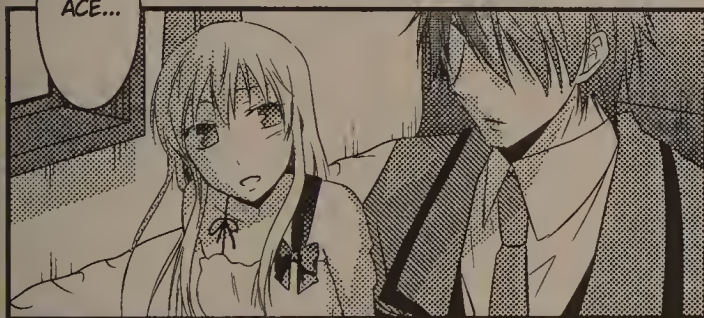
...



ALICE
IS SICK.
SHE IS
RECOVERING!

DO NOT BE
TASTELESS
AND
VIOLENT IN
HER VERY
ROOM.

ACE...



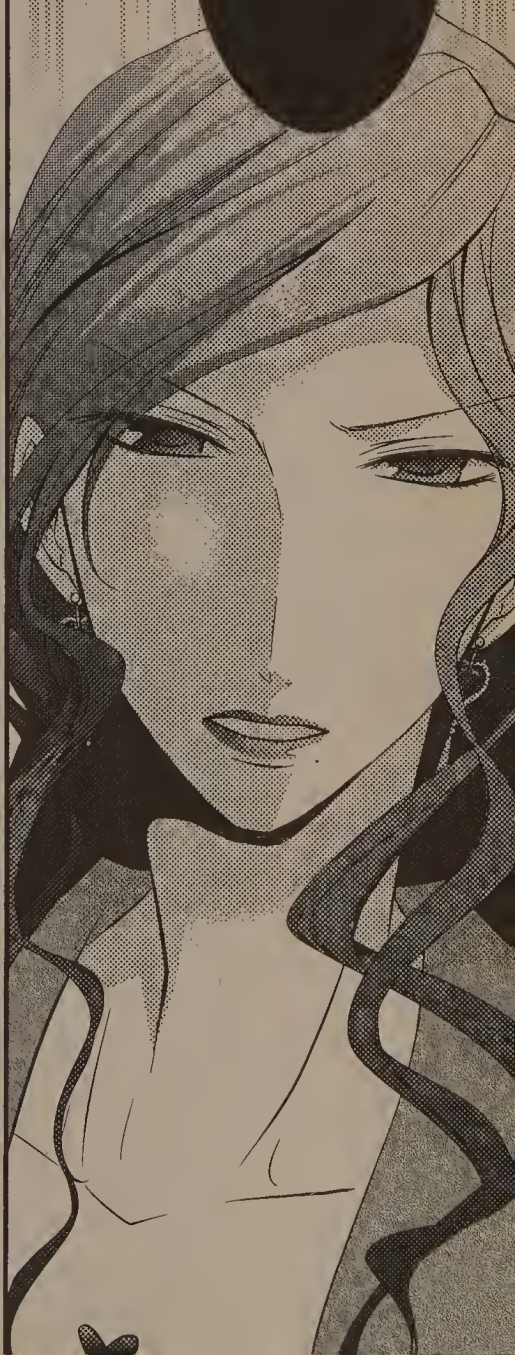
ALICE.

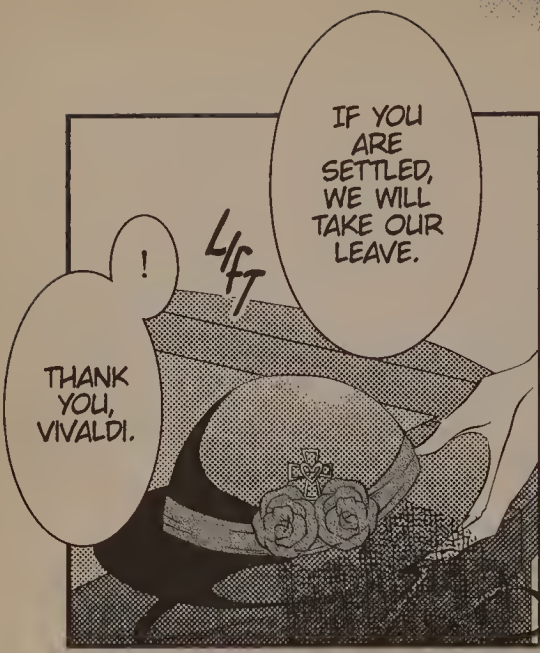
YOU ARE
SWEATING,
MY DEAR.

WE
SHALL
CLEAN
YOU
UP.

YOU
MUST
CHANGE
CLOTHES.

CEASE THIS
POINTLESS
DRAMA, YOU
PATHETIC
IMBECILES!





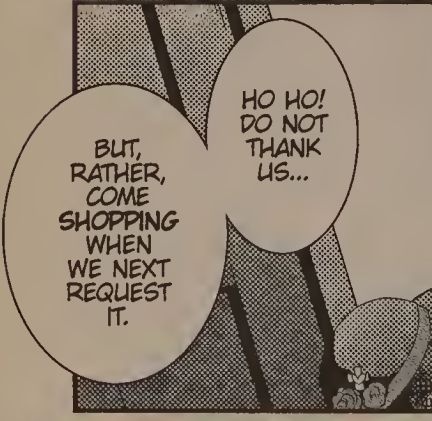
THANK YOU, VIVALDI.

IF YOU ARE SETTLED, WE WILL TAKE OUR LEAVE.

NOW, THEN.

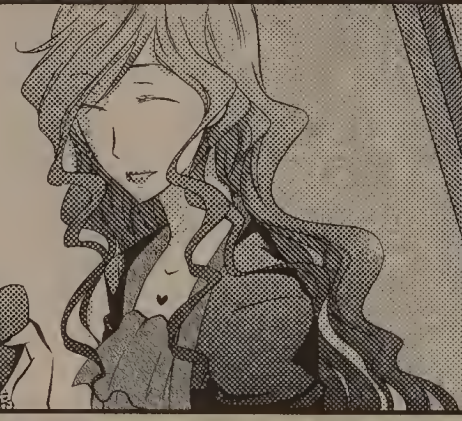


!

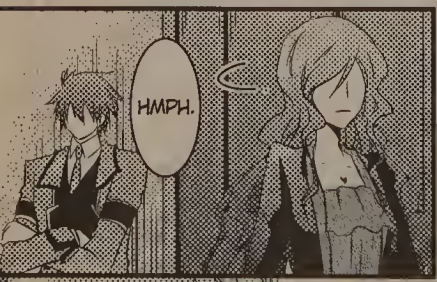


BUT, RATHER, COME SHOPPING WHEN WE NEXT REQUEST IT.

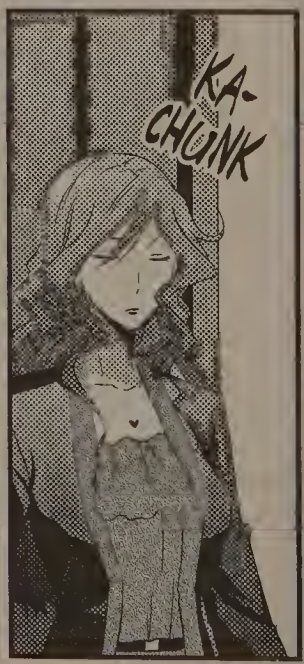
HO HO! DO NOT THANK US...



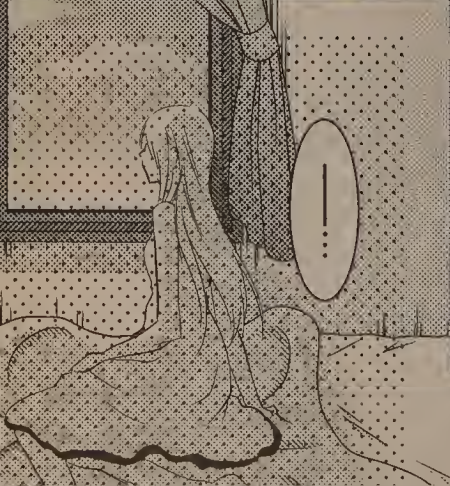
FOR... EVERYTHING.



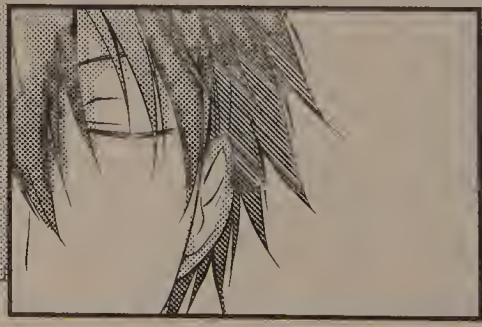
HMPH.

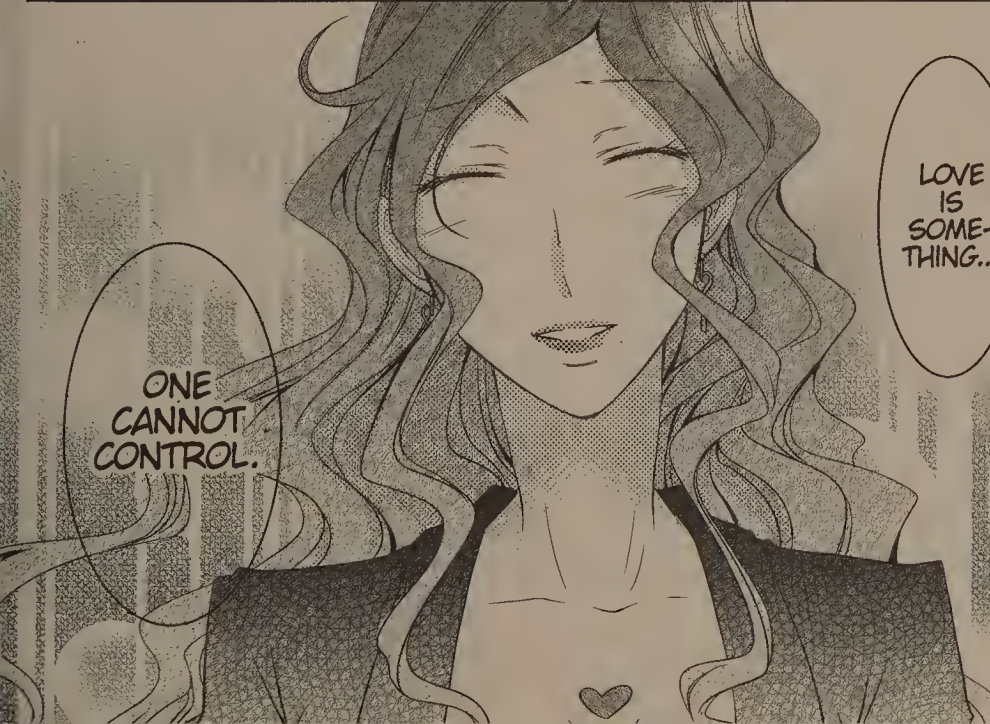
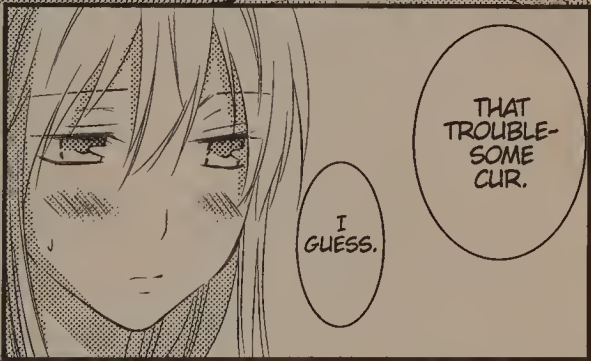
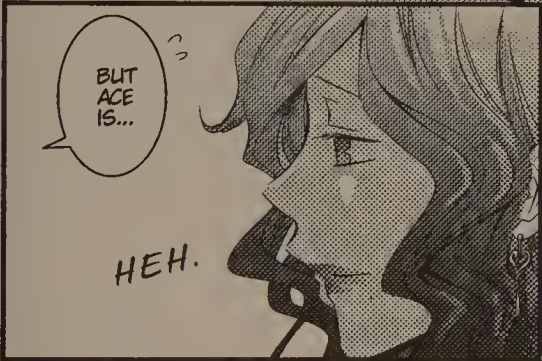
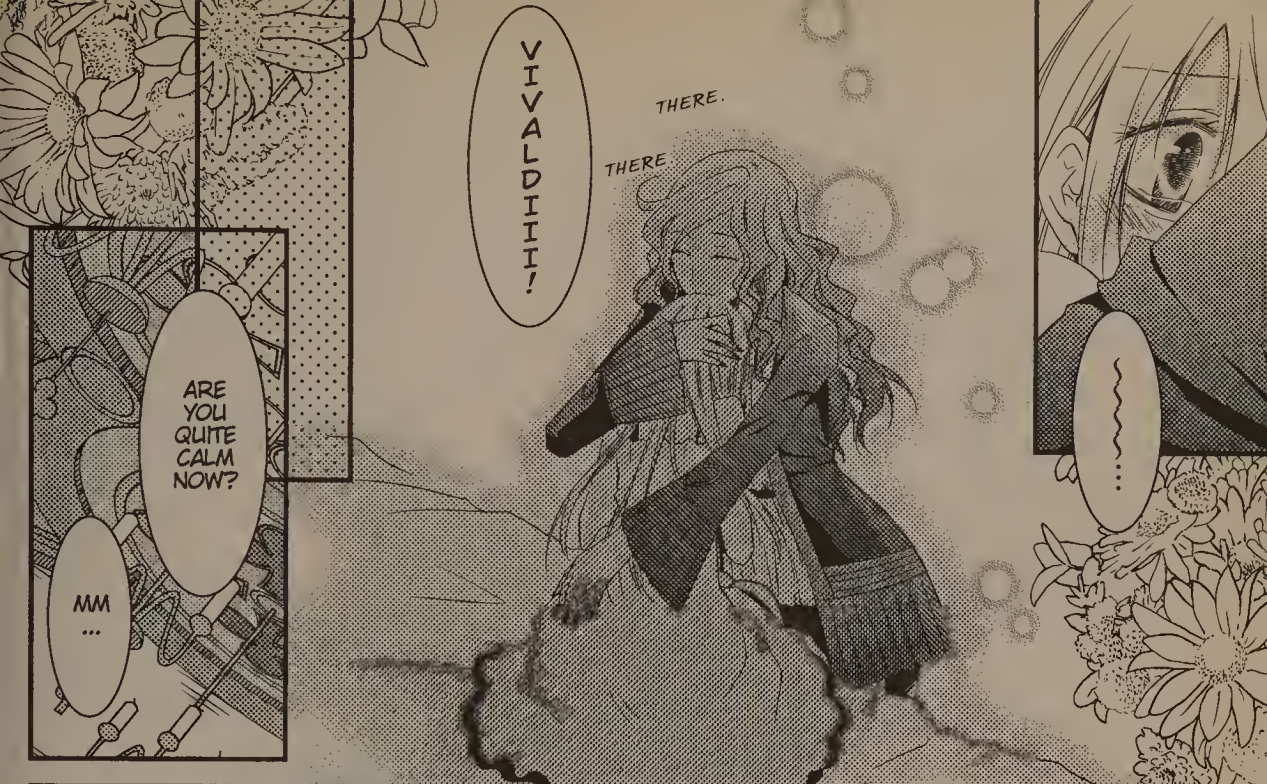


KA-CHUNK



!

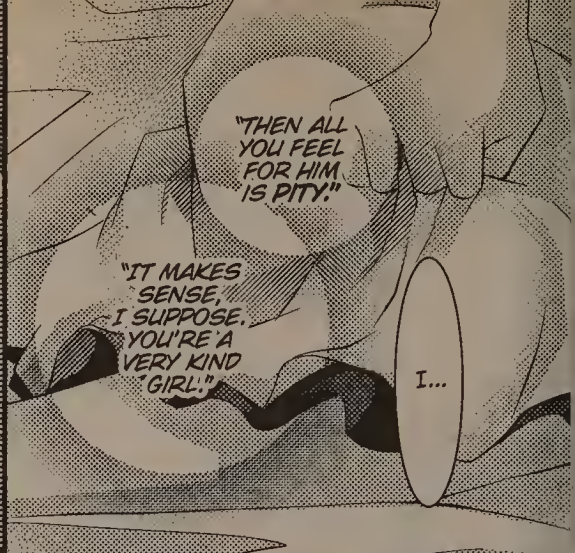






I WON'T
KNOW
IF YOU
DON'T
TELL ME.

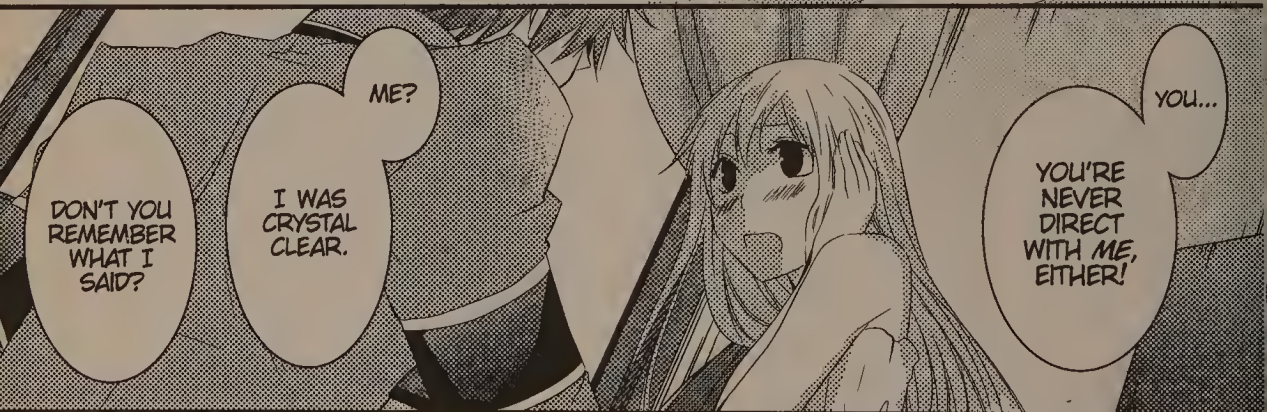
Tense



"THEN ALL
YOU FEEL
FOR HIM
IS PITY."

"IT MAKES
SENSE,
I SUPPOSE.
YOU'RE A
VERY KIND
"GIRL!"

I...



DON'T YOU
REMEMBER
WHAT I
SAID?

I WAS
CRYSTAL
CLEAR.

ME?

YOU...

YOU'RE
NEVER
DIRECT
WITH ME,
EITHER!



I
LOVE
YOU.

I
LOVE
YOU.

.....
!



?!
ACE?!
HEY!

TAP

TAP

FWUP



SIGH.

NOW
WHAT?

KIA-
CHAK

TAP



"THAT'S
JUST
BECAUSE
I LOVE
HIM!"

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
ACE
HEARD
THAT.

I
NEVER
MEANT
FOR HIM
TO...
AGH!



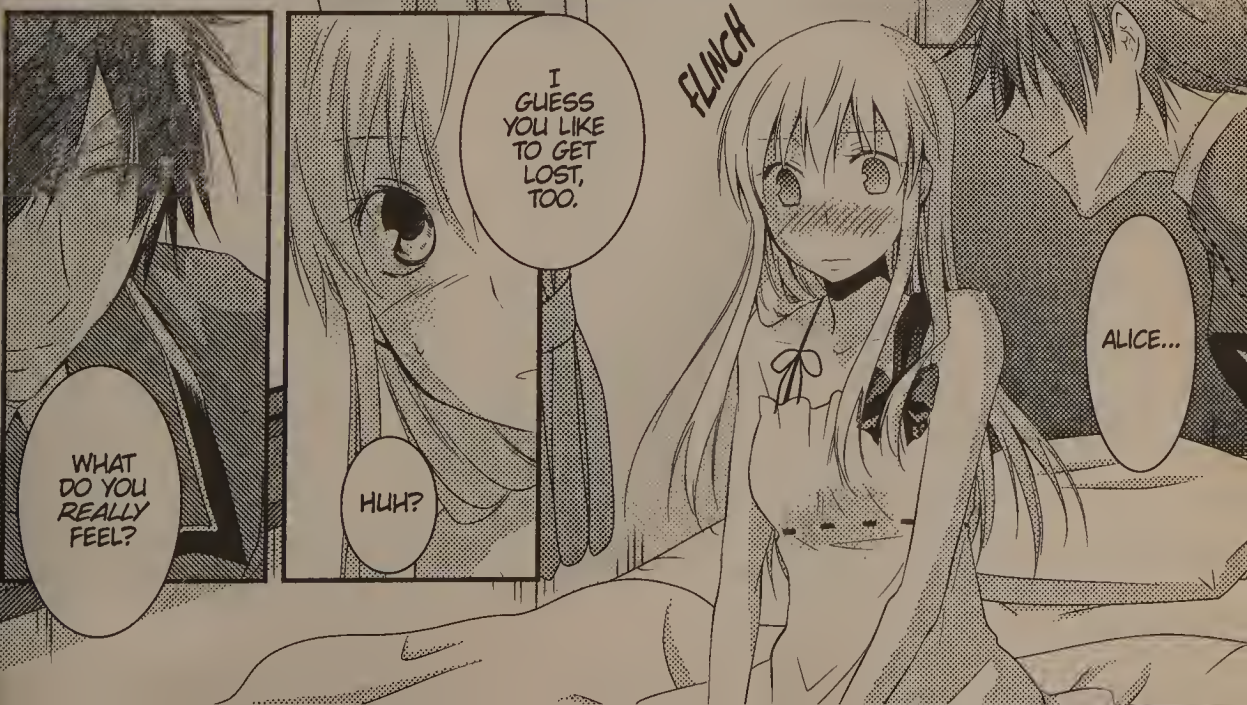
IT WAS
THE LAST
THING
ON MY...
MIND.

SORRY.

I
FORGOT.

AT
LEAST
KNOCK
BEFORE
YOU
BARGE IN
HERE!

LEAN



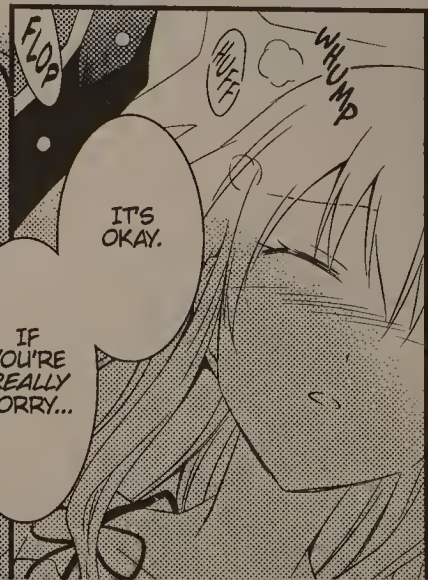
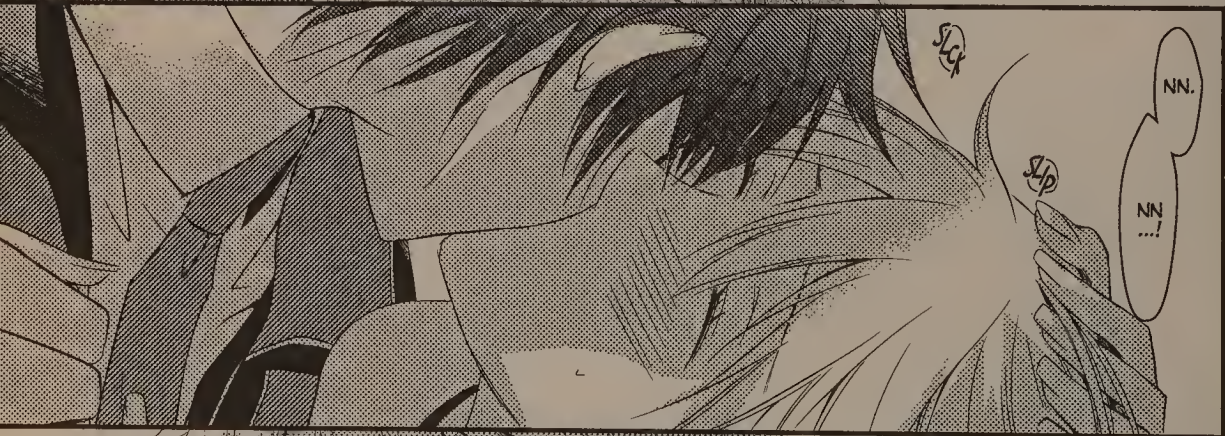
WHAT
DO YOU
REALLY
FEEL?

HUH?

I
GUESS
YOU LIKE
TO GET
LOST,
TOO.

FLINCH

ALICE...



MM...

S...

SORRY
--!

MMPH!

YOU
MADE
ME
EAVES-
DROP.

I WISH
I'D BEEN
THE
FIRST TO
HEAR
THAT.

NN.

NN
....

GRIN

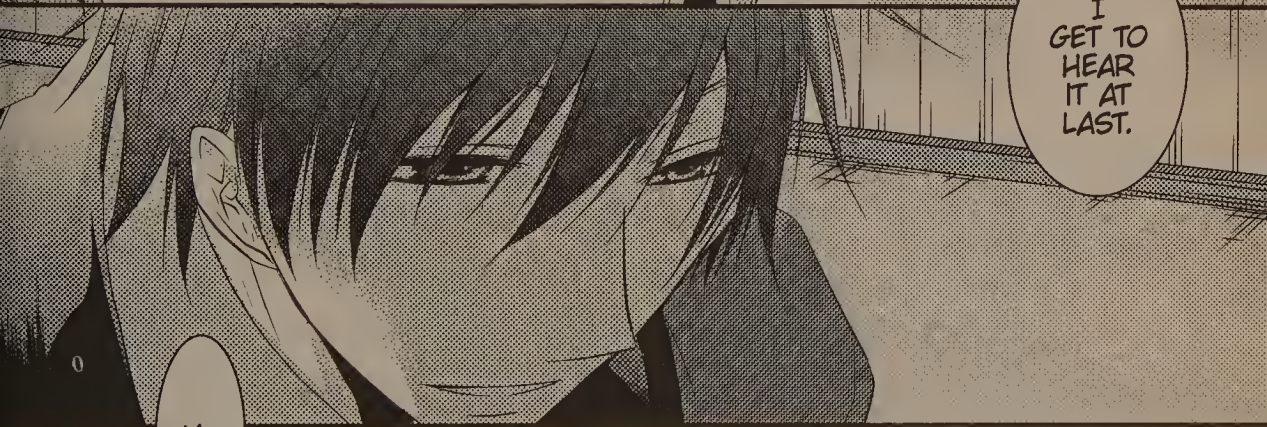
FLOP

WHUMP

WHUMP

IT'S
OKAY.

IF
YOU'RE
REALLY
SORRY...



AW.

I GUESS
I PUSH
YOU TOO
MUCH.

WE CAN
TAKE A
BREAK,
IF YOU
WANT.

HOW IS
YOUR
STRENGTH
HOLDING
UP,
ALICE?

FINE.

I WAS
JUST
EXHAUSTED
AT THE
ASSEMBLY.

YEAH
...

BUT HOW
ABOUT
COFFEE
FOR A
CHANGE?

WE'VE
GOT
TEA.

RUSTLE

SURE.

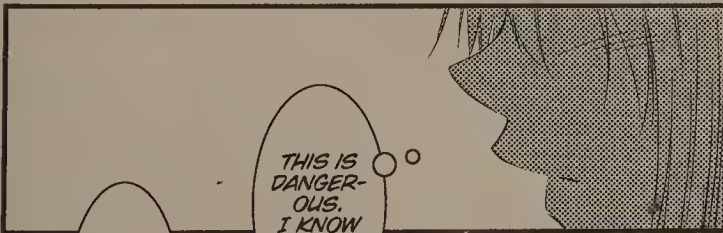
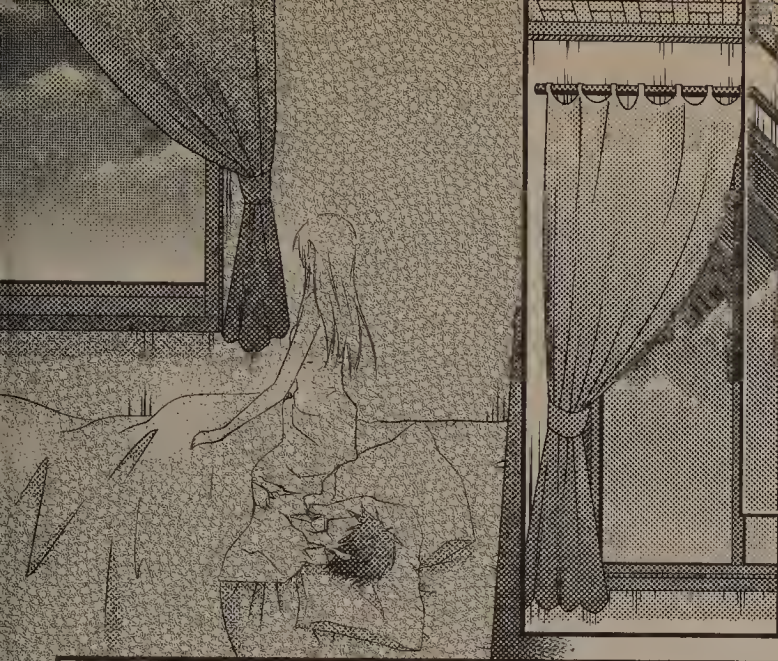
YOU
CAN
USE
THIS.

THANKS,
ACE.

HUHH.

I WAS
WONDERING
WHY
YOUR BAG
WAS SO
HEAVY.

I
BROUGHT
SOME
WITH
ME.



"72
POINTS."

(Attempted
Impression
of Julius.)

PFFT!

WHO
KNOWS!

BUT
OUT OF
WHAT?

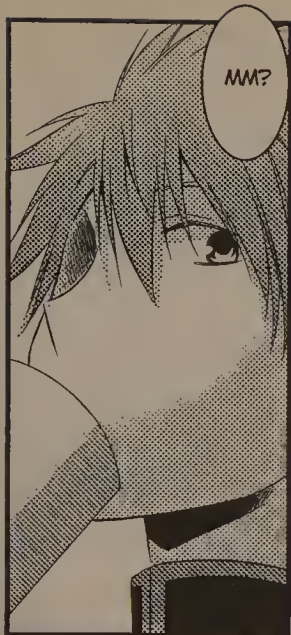
AH
HA
HA
HA!
HE
GRADED
YOU?

AND YOU
ONLY
GOT A
72!

YEAH,
THAT'S
KINDA
HIS
THING.

IT WAS
REALLY
COLD.

ACE...



MM?

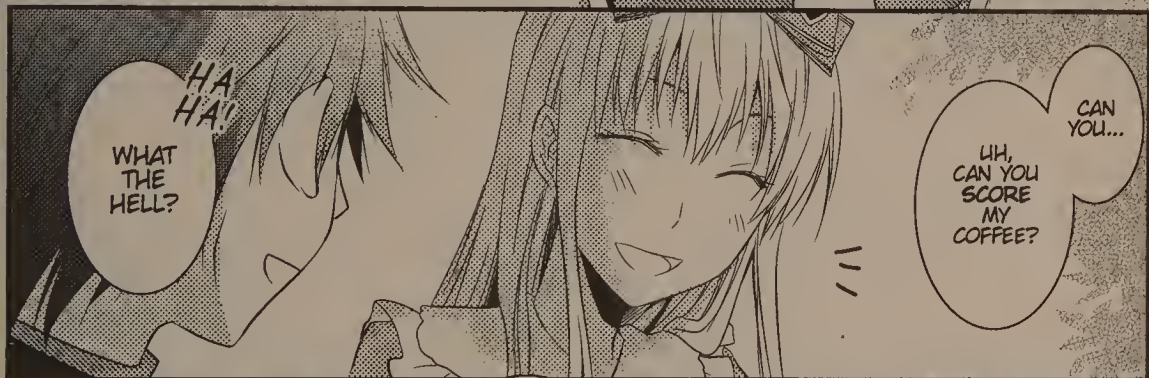


HEY...



YEAH--
IT'S NOT
BAD.

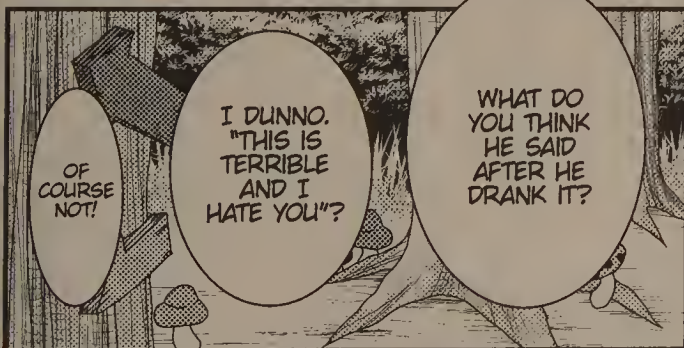
THIS IS
NICE
EVERY
ONCE IN
A WHILE.



HA
HA!
WHAT
THE
HELL?

UH,
CAN YOU
SCORE
MY
COFFEE?

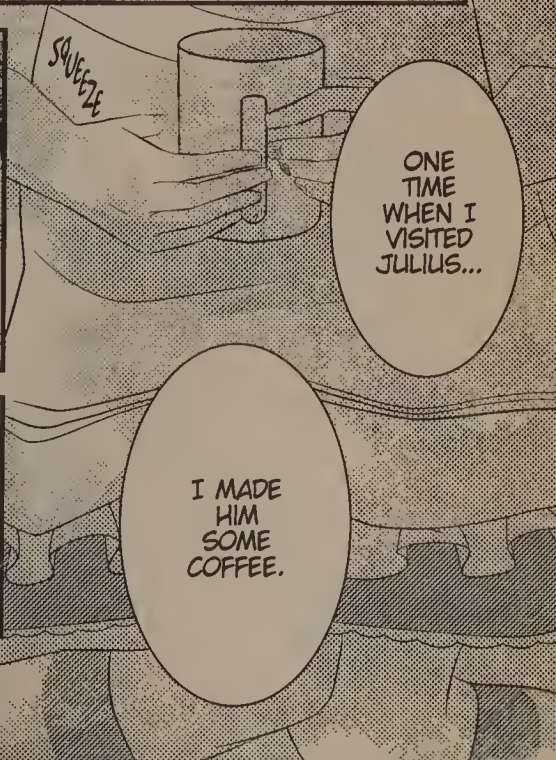
CAN
YOU...



OF
COURSE
NOT!

I DUNNO.
"THIS IS
TERRIBLE
AND I
HATE YOU!"?

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
HE SAID
AFTER HE
DRANK IT?



ONE
TIME
WHEN I
VISITED
JULIUS...

I MADE
HIM
SOME
COFFEE.



SQUISH

↑ wrinkled forehead.

72 POINTS IS EMBARRASSING, SO I'LL MAKE IT TO 100.

AND I'LL BE IN CHARGE OF THE COFFEE!

YOU SHOULD WORK FOR JULIUS LIKE YOU DID BEFORE.

BUT I'LL COME WITH YOU, OKAY?

LET'S RUSH JULIUS AND FORCE HIM TO TAKE US IN!

WE CAN DRAG JULIUS OUT INTO THE SUN EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.

WHILE WE WERE IN THE COUNTRY OF HEARTS, WE DIDN'T HAVE THE CHANCE TO TAKE HIM OUT ONCE!

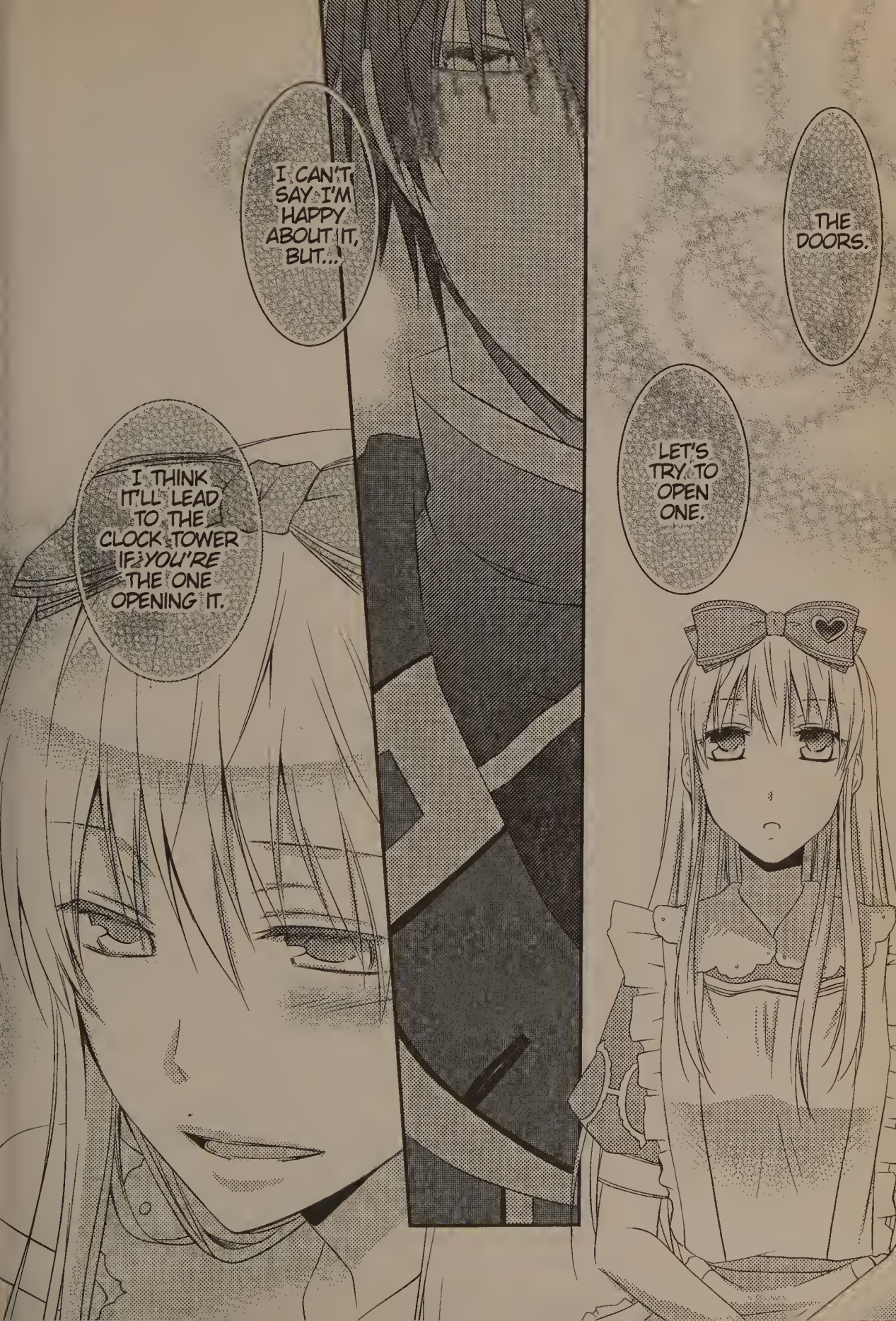
I'LL MAKE A PICNIC BASKET AND--

I CAN'T DO MUCH...

IF WE CLEAN OUT A STORAGE SPACE OR SOMETHING, I'M SURE WE'LL FIND A PLACE TO STAY.

BUT I'LL HELP JULIUS WITH HIS WORK, TOO.

FWLAMP



I CAN'T
SAY I'M
HAPPY
ABOUT IT,
BUT...

THE
DOORS.

I THINK
IT'LL LEAD
TO THE
CLOCK TOWER
IF YOU'RE
THE ONE
OPENING IT.

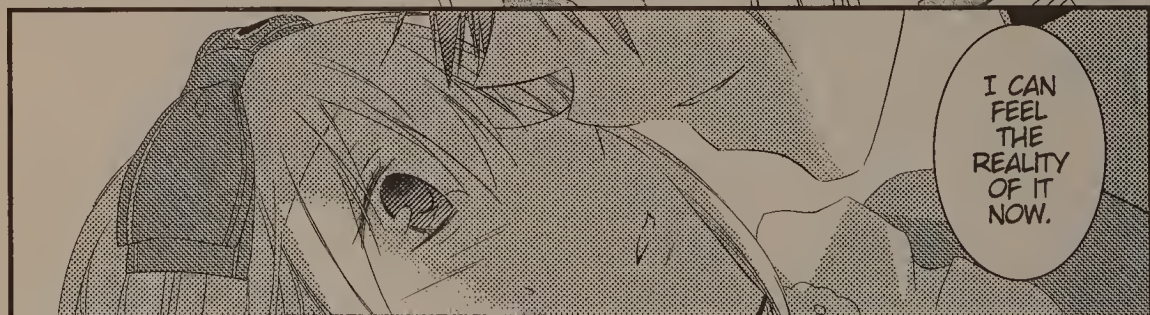
LET'S
TRY TO
OPEN
ONE.



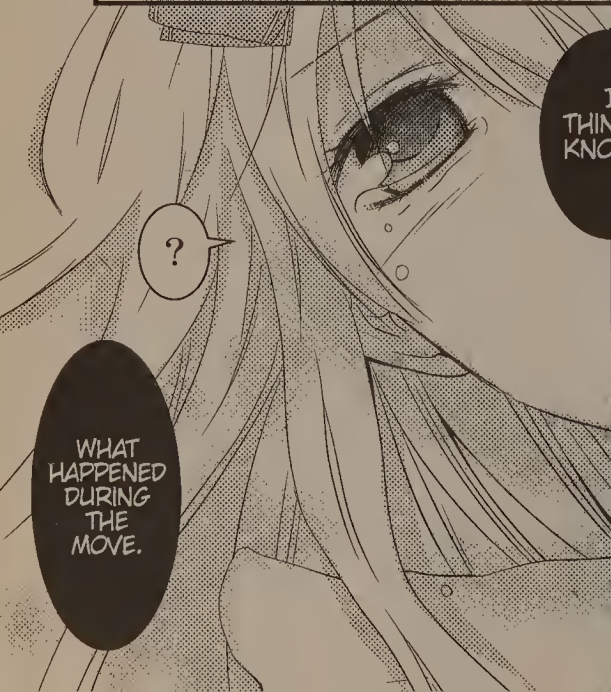
ALL I
CAN DO
IS STAY
CLOSE
AND--
MM!



BECAUSE I
CAN'T DO
ANYTHING
FOR YOU--
BUT HE
CAN!



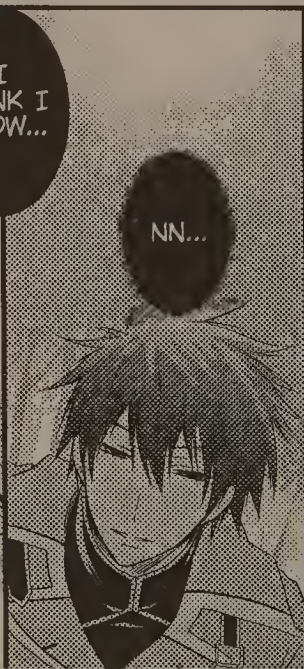
I CAN
FEEL
THE
REALITY
OF IT
NOW.



?

WHAT
HAPPENED
DURING
THE
MOVE.

I
THINK I
KNOW...



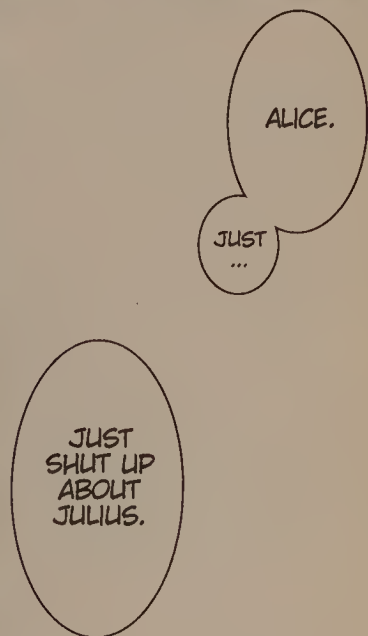
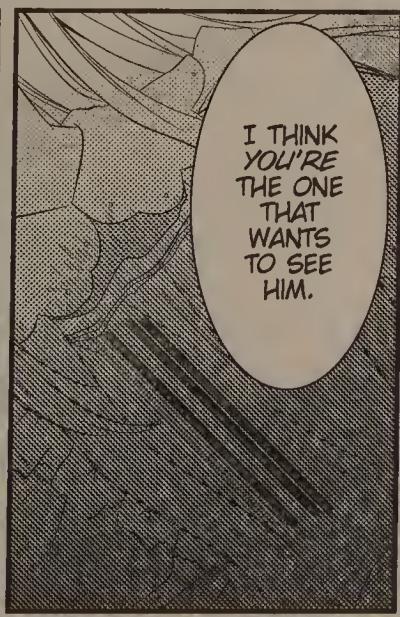
NN...



WHAT
I'VE GOT
WITH
YOU.



ROLL



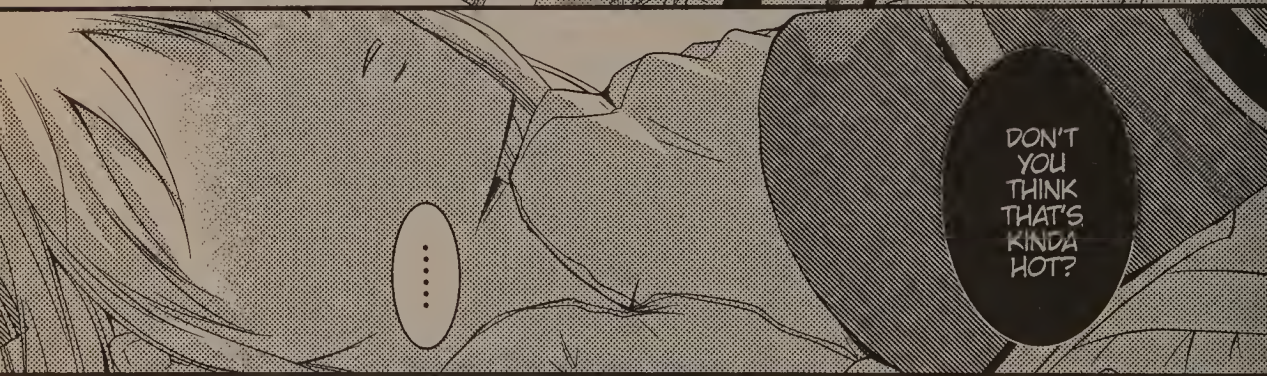


WHEN
YOU'RE
SCARED
...

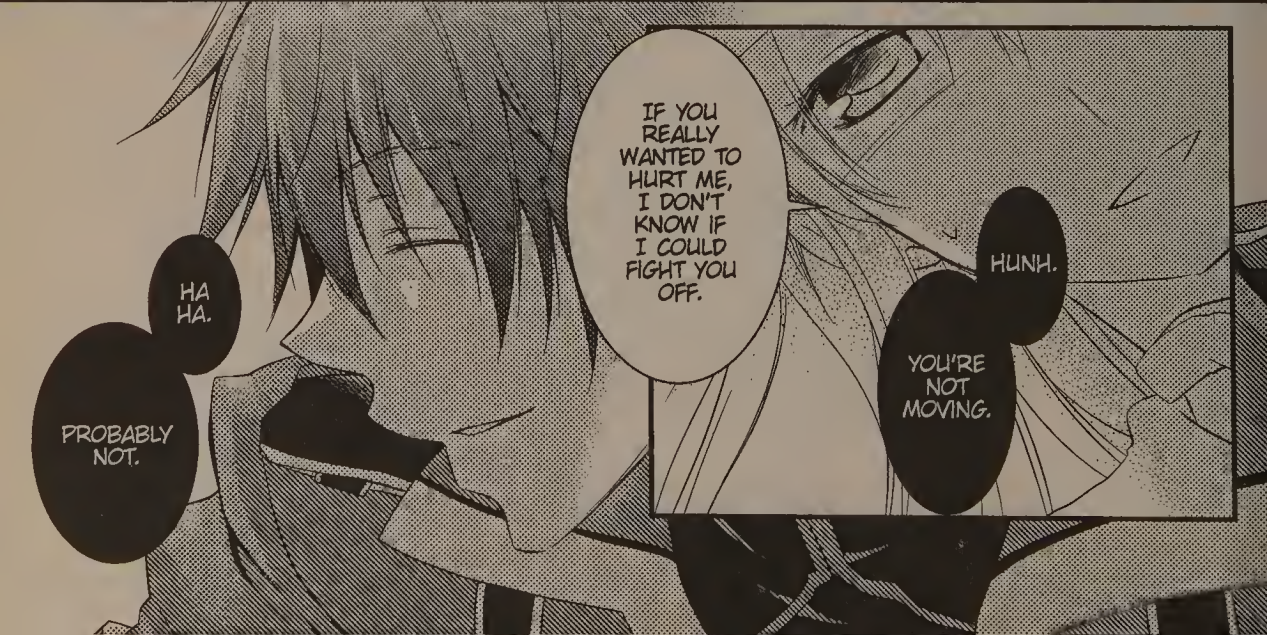
HEY.

YOUR
PRETTY
LITTLE HEART
REALLY
STARTS TO
POUND.

ALICE.



DON'T
YOU
THINK
THAT'S
KINDA
HOT?



IF YOU
REALLY
WANTED TO
HURT ME,
I DON'T
KNOW IF
I COULD
FIGHT YOU
OFF.

HA
HA.

HUNH.

PROBABLY
NOT.

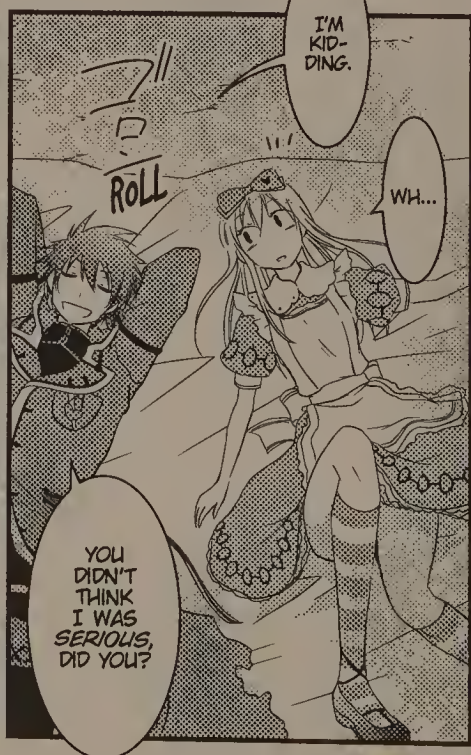
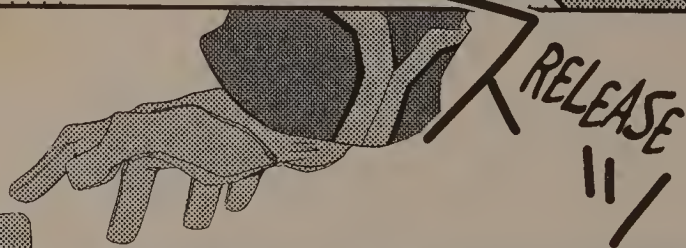
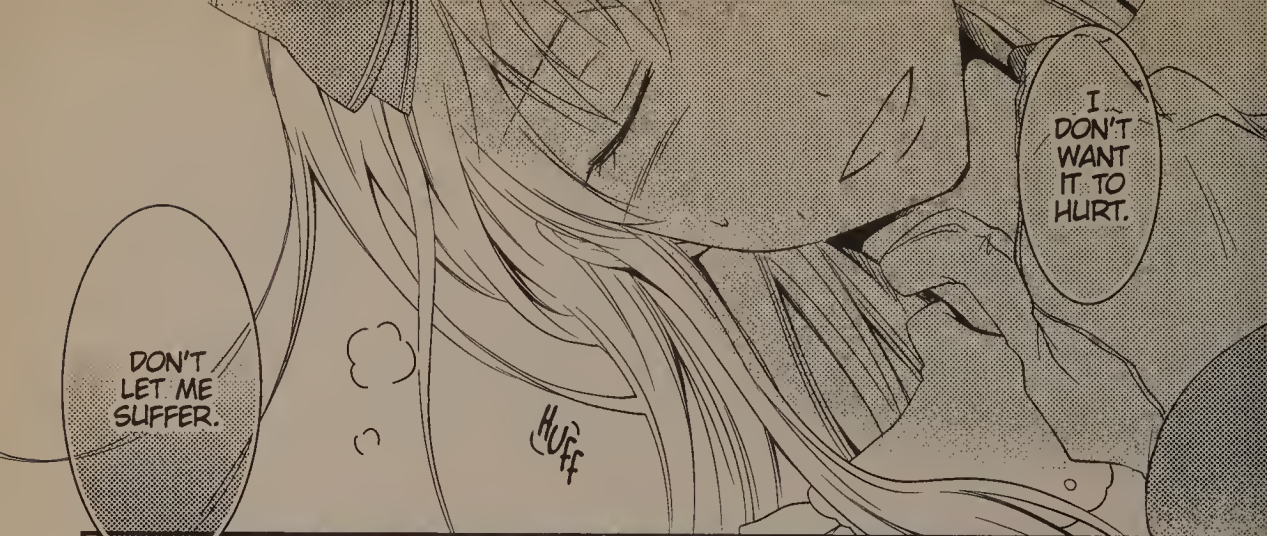
YOU'RE
NOT
MOVING.

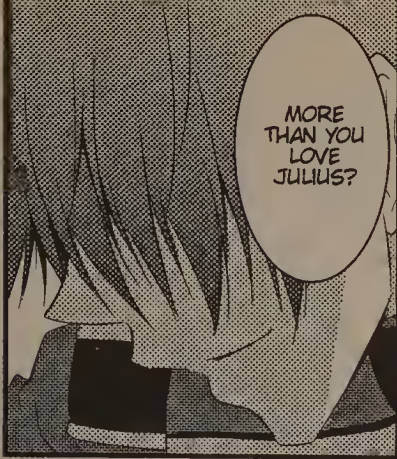


YOU
WERE IN
HEART
CASTLE.

I'M
DISGUSTED
BY
ANYTHING
THAT
CAN'T BE
REPLACED.

MAYBE
THAT'S WHY
I WAS
PUSHED
OUT OF THE
CLOCK
TOWER.





MORE
THAN YOU
LOVE
JULIUS?



TIGHTEN

.....
!



ACE...

I
DON'T
GET
YOU.

I
THOUGHT
IF YOU
WANTED
TO KILL
ME...

YOU'D
USE YOUR
SWORD,
LIKE YOU
DO WITH
EVERYONE
ELSE.

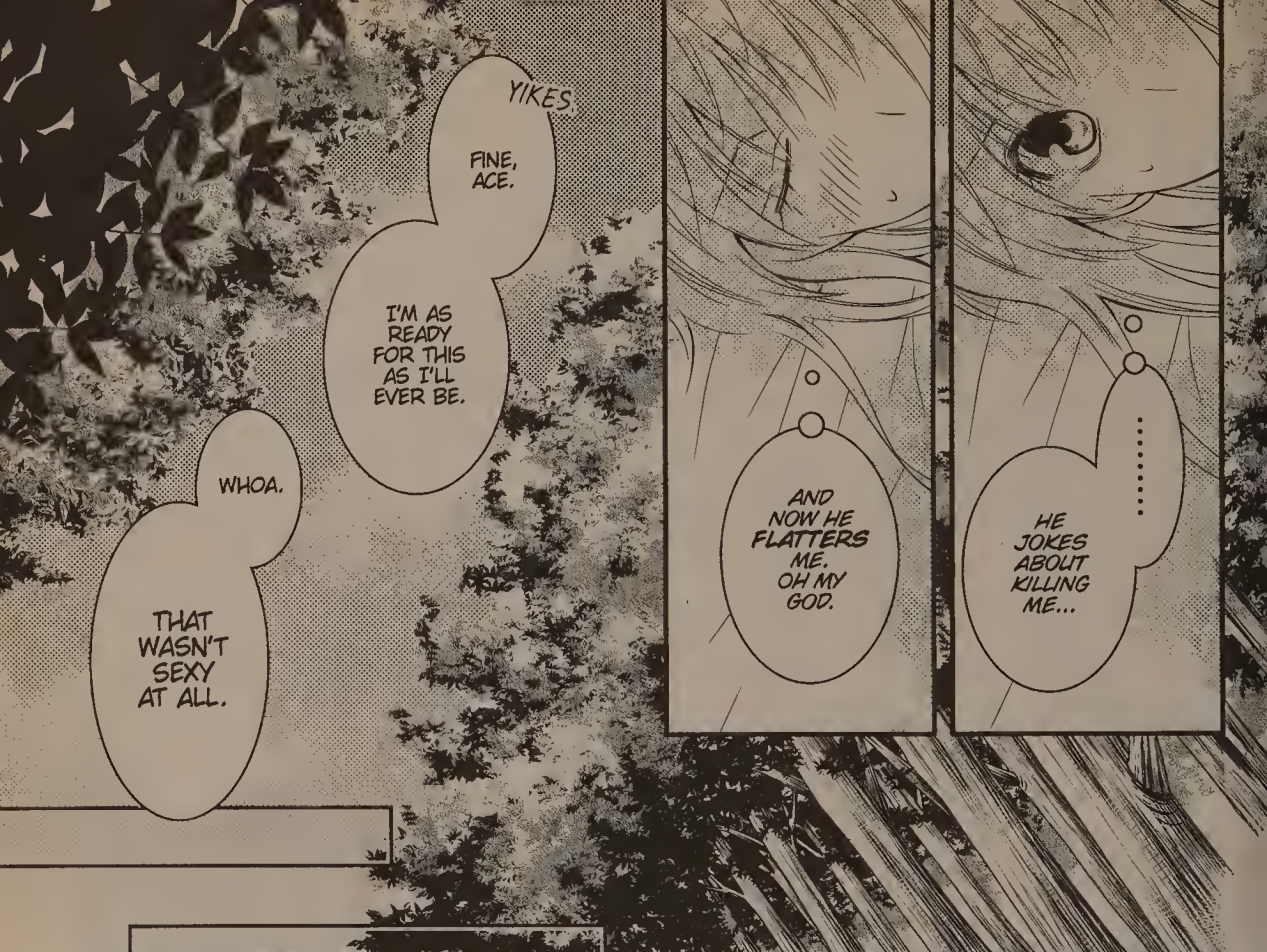


I
LOVE
YOU.



DO
YOU
LOVE
ME?

ACE...



YIKES.

FINE,
ACE.

I'M AS
READY
FOR THIS
AS I'LL
EVER BE.

WHOA.

THAT
WASN'T
SEXY
AT ALL.

AND
NOW HE
FLATTERS
ME.
OH MY
GOD.

HE
JOKES
ABOUT
KILLING
ME...



ALICE.



NO...

THANK-
FULLY.

YEAH?
WHAT
IS IT?

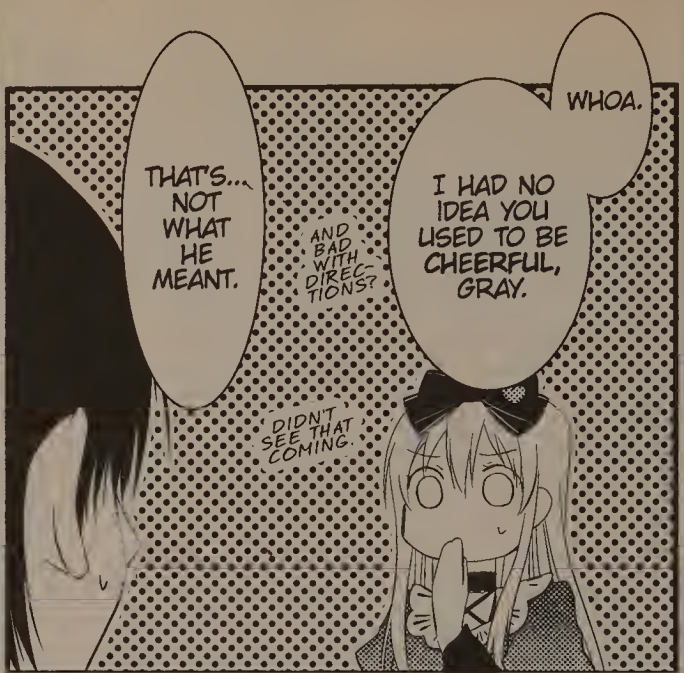
I HOPE
NIGHT-
MARE
DIDN'T
ESCAPE
AGAIN.





ANYWAY.
I'M SORRY
ABOUT
EARLIER.

I'LL
BE ON
MY WAY
NOW.



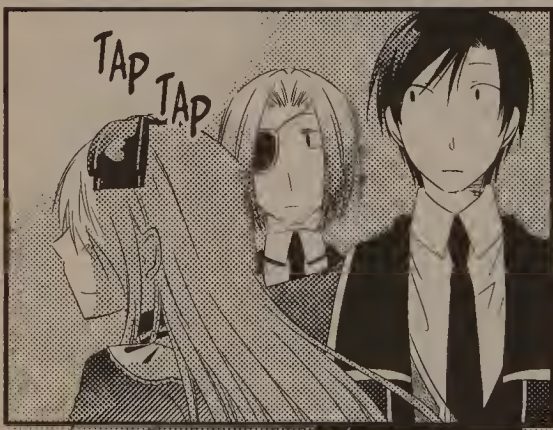
WHOA.

THAT'S...
NOT
WHAT
HE
MEANT.

AND
BAD
WITH
DIREC-
TIONS?

I HAD NO
IDEA YOU
USED TO BE
CHEERFUL,
GRAY.

DIDNT
SEE THAT
COMING.



TAP
TAP



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.
YOU WERE
LOOKING
OUT FOR
ME.

OH!

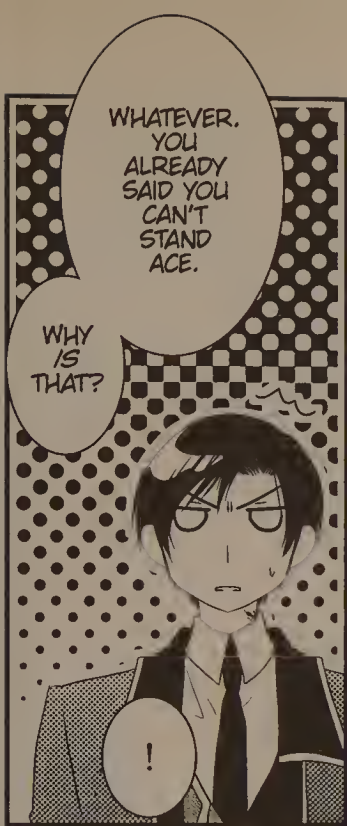


NEITHER
DO I.

.....

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT SHE
SEES IN HIM.





WHATEVER.
YOU
ALREADY
SAID YOU
CAN'T
STAND
ACE.

WHY
IS
THAT?

!



HEH
HEH.

OH.
THAT.

I WAS
PREOCCUPIED
WITH ACE
AND
TOTALLY
FORGOT.



I
WANTED
TO
APOLO-
GIZE.

FOR THAT
TIME I
LOST MY
TEMPER
AND...
YOU
CRIED.



GRIN

HE REMINDS
YOU OF
YOURSELF
WHEN YOU
WERE YOUNG.
AND YOU
CAN'T STAND
THAT.

RIGHT,
GRAY?

GRIN

I...

UH...



DON'T
BE A
CHILD!

YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO BE MY
BOSS!

NO!

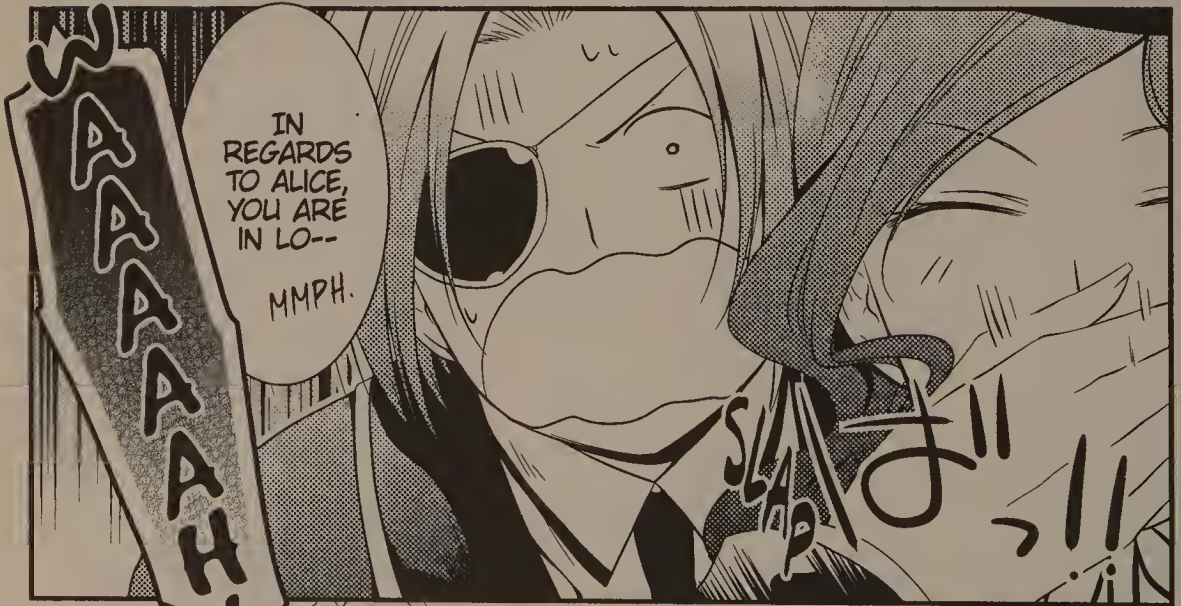
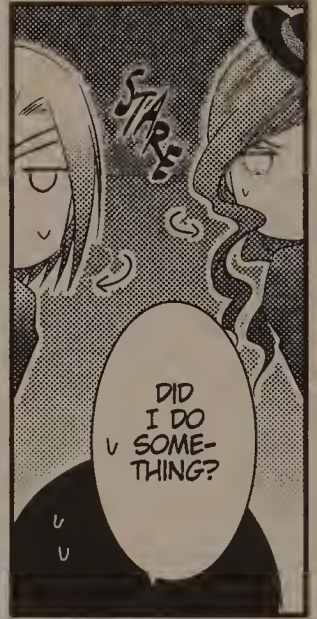
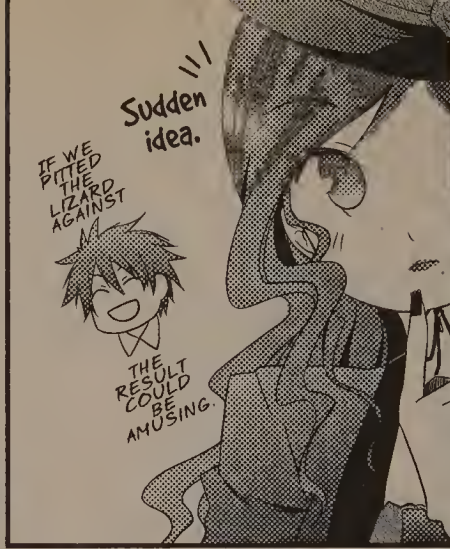
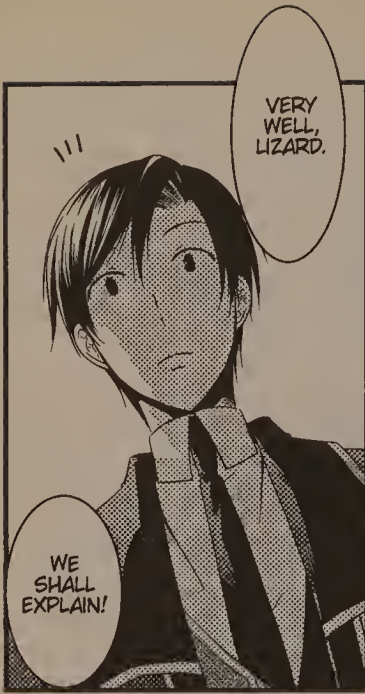
I'M
GETTING
BACK AT
YOU FOR
BEING A
JERK
TO ME!

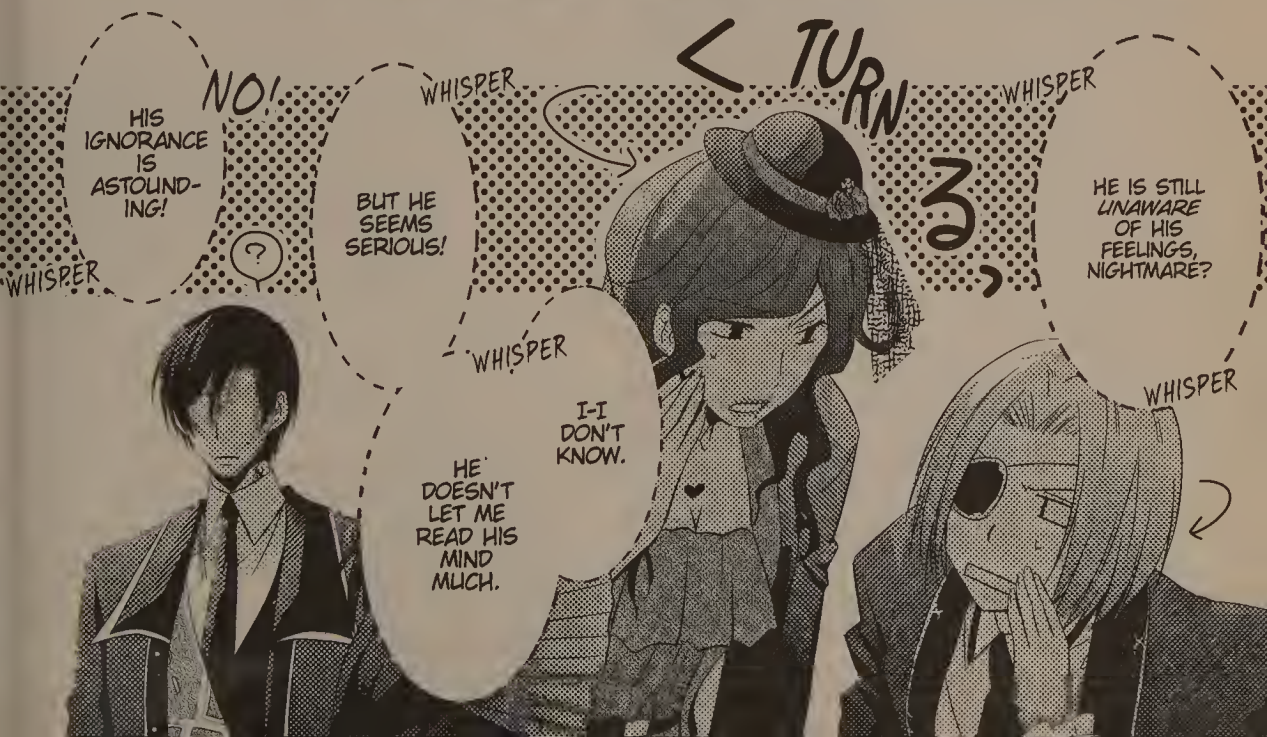
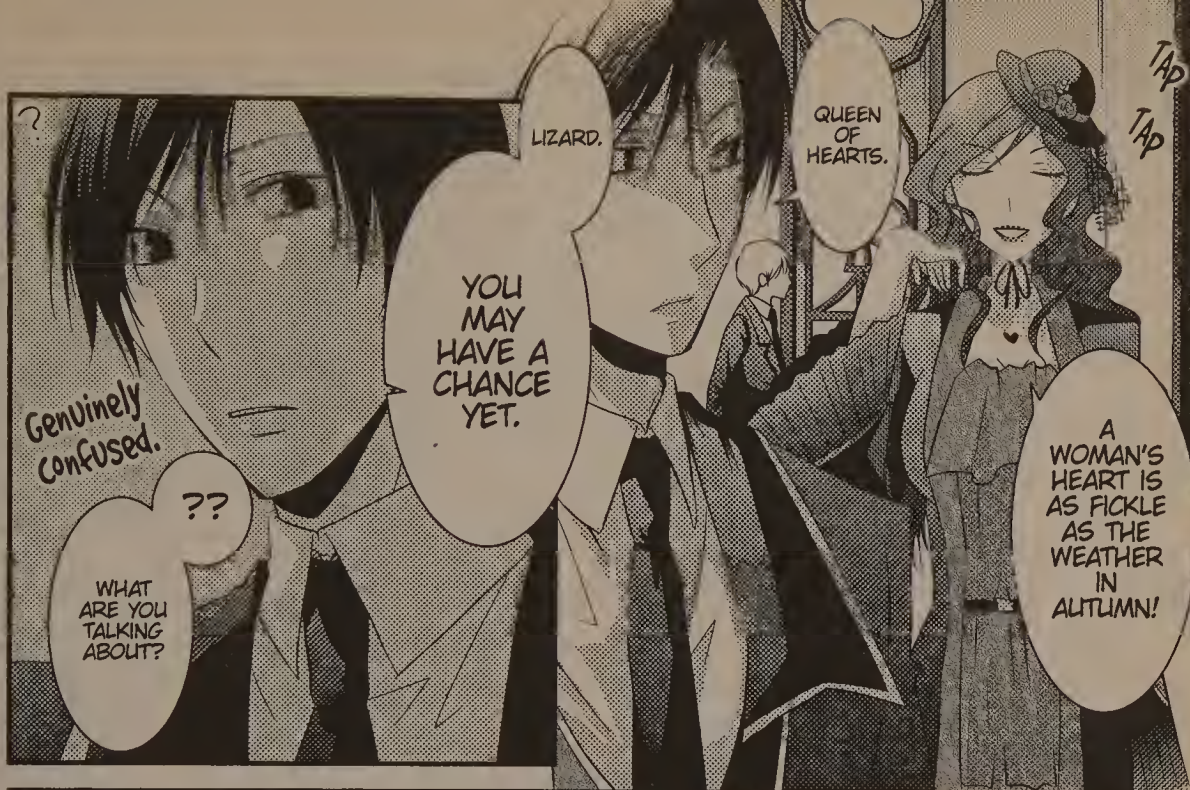
PLEASE
SHUT
YOUR
MOUTH!



TWIST

LORD
NIGHT-
MARE!

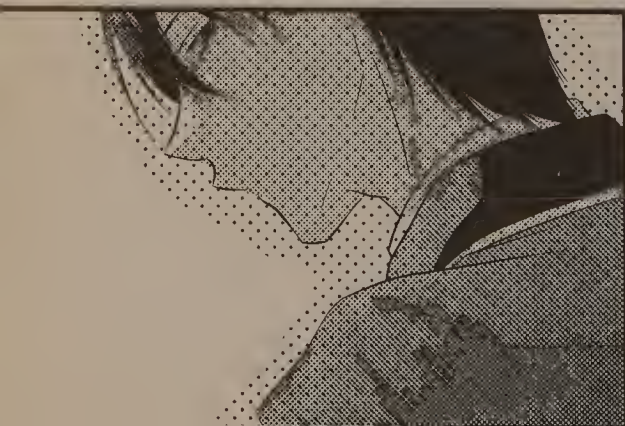
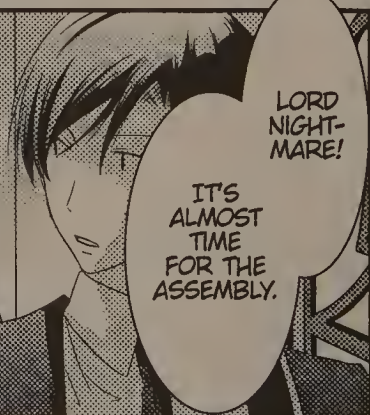
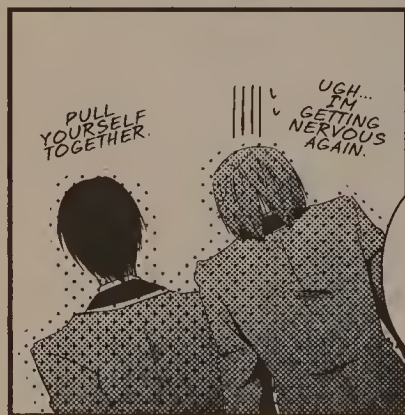
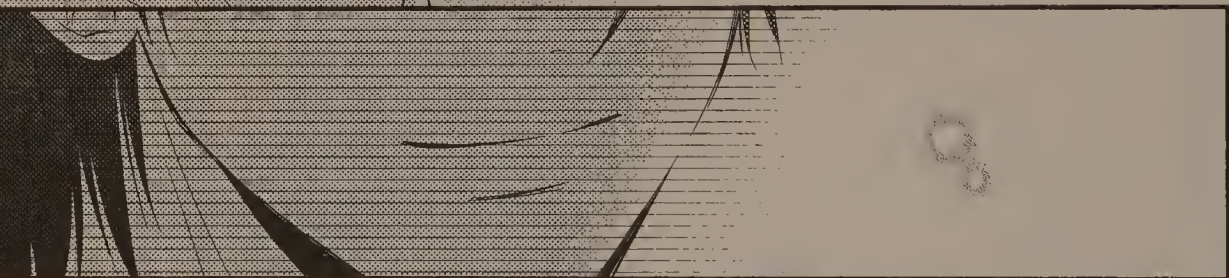






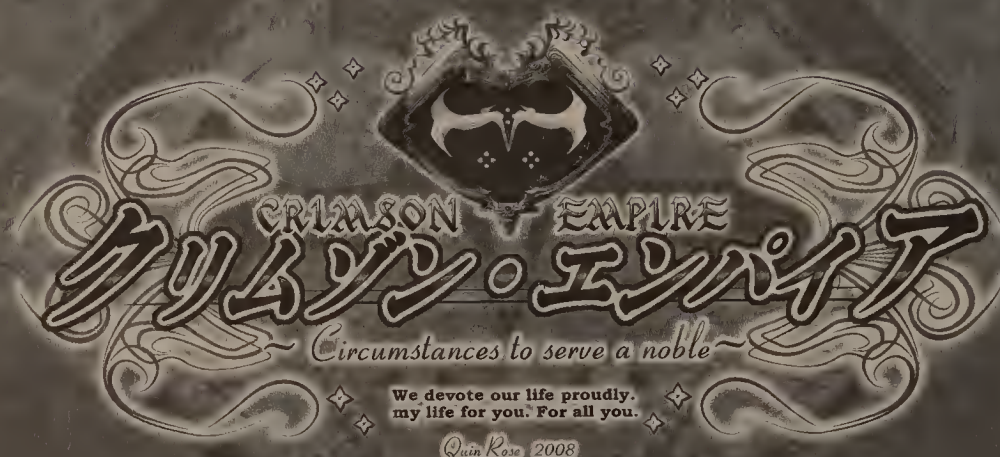
I
MEDDLED
IN THEIR
RELATIONSHIP.

...



FINE.

THE MAN
IS
HOPELESS,
BUT...



- STORY -

The setting is a country of aristocrats: a tributary nation for Luxonne. *Crimson Empire* is a love adventure game about a maid, Sheila, who works in the luxurious royal castle. But behind the lavish façade, the castle is home to a savage—and bloody—political war.

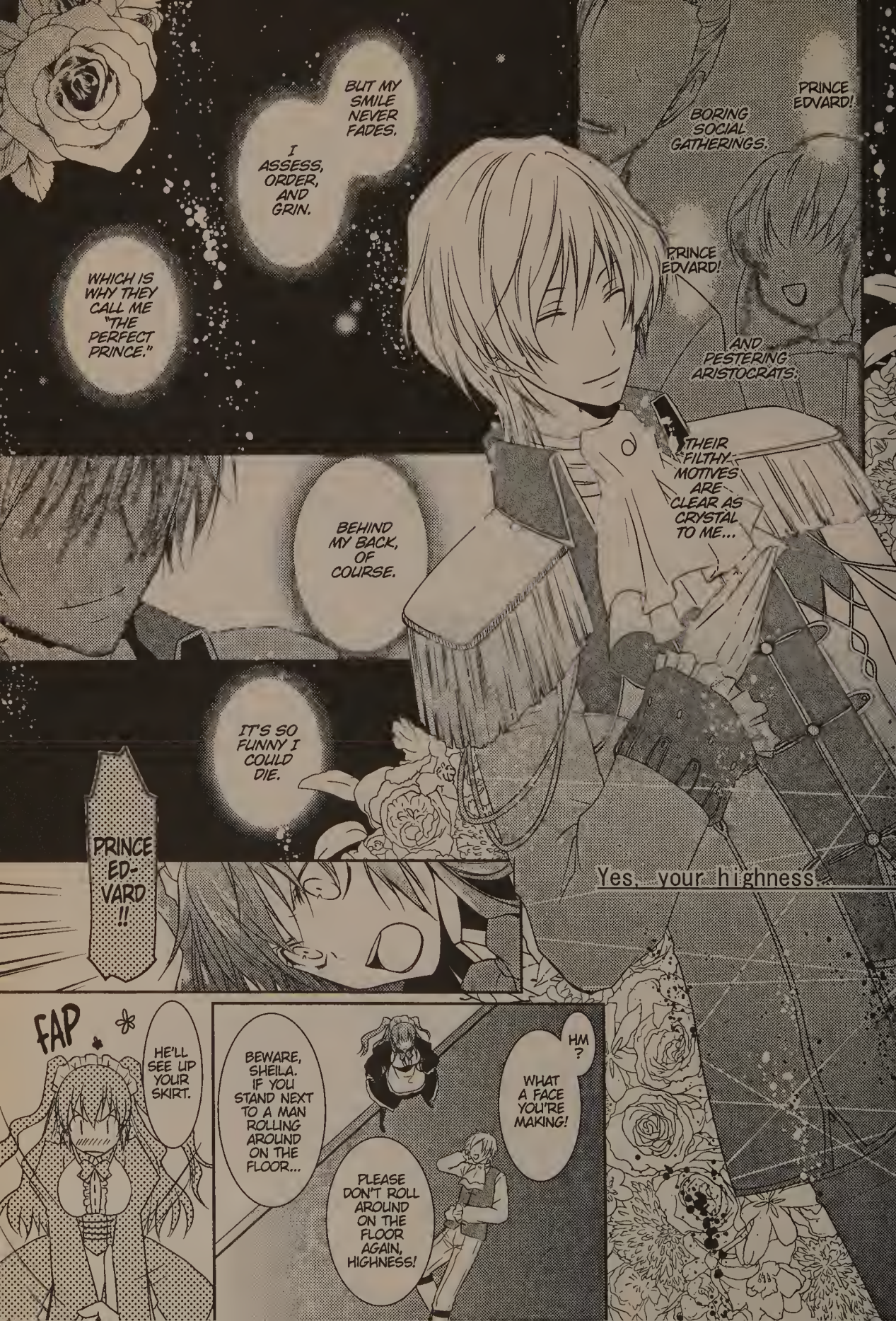
Strong and skilled, Sheila uses her position as a maid to hide her true profession: bodyguard to Prince Edvard. Sheila carries a dark past of enslavement and murder. Now she survives day to day, with only a small wish in her heart.

While navigating the power struggle between Prince Edvard and his brother, the deceptive Prince Justin, Sheila must understand and use the dangerous people who surround her. But although a brilliant fighter and tactician, Sheila is unskilled when it comes to love and friendships. Such a gap between her power and her heart could lead to a dire ending indeed!



IF HE
CAN
MAKE
YOU
HAPPY...

YOU'LL
FIND YOUR
WAY
TOGETHER.



BUT MY
SMILE
NEVER
FADES.

I
ASSESS,
ORDER,
AND
GRIN.

WHICH IS
WHY THEY
CALL ME
"THE
PERFECT
PRINCE."

PRINCE
EDWARD!

BORING
SOCIAL
GATHERINGS.

PRINCE
EDWARD!

AND
PESTERING
ARISTOCRATS.

THEIR
FILTHY
MOTIVES
ARE
CLEAR AS
CRYSTAL
TO ME...

BEHIND
MY BACK,
OF
COURSE.

IT'S SO
FUNNY I
COULD
DIE.

PRINCE
ED-
VARD
!!

Yes, your highness.

FAP

HE'LL
SEE UP
YOUR
SKIRT.

BEWARE,
SHEILA.
IF YOU
STAND NEXT
TO A MAN
ROLLING
AROUND
ON THE
FLOOR...

PLEASE
DON'T ROLL
AROUND
ON THE
FLOOR
AGAIN,
HIGHNESS!

HM
?

WHAT
A FACE
YOU'RE
MAKING!

Crimson Empire

Character Information

Sheila Rozen

The intensely loyal head maid to Prince Edvard—and his secret bodyguard. She's a skilled leader and shrewdly political, in addition to being fierce in combat. She doesn't hide her roots as a slave.

Marshall Aid

VA: Keui Narita

Prince Justin's head servant. He argues with Sheila in public but doesn't dislike her. In private, they're intimate enough to spar peacefully.

Justin Roberutley

VA: Daisuke Hirakawa

The eldest prince, and Edvard's older half-brother. Since his mother is of lower status, Justin falls below his younger brother in line for the throne.

Edvard Winiree

VA: Kenichi Suzumura

Sheila's master. While friendly and regal on the surface, he's very condescending. He thinks of Sheila as more than a subordinate and loves her more than his own family... or so he *claims*.

Varchia Ganasch

VA: Mitsuaki Saiga

Varchia, the vice-maid, is a close friend of Sheila's, and is a former slave. Her actions and words are always painfully neutral. She's trustworthy and helps Sheila in both public and private.

Rambures Dannunzio

VA: Taniyama Kisho

A commoner who was knighted after saving the king. He loves to lurk in his room and brew concoctions—which often stink and explode—instead of interacting with the nobility.

Bryon Capella

VA: Taisuiha Suzuki

Son of the marquis who one day will inherit the position and become an important pillar of the country. He seems cheerful and carefree, but rather guarded. Like his sister, he adores Sheila.

Ronalus Eckert

VA: Daisuke Kisho

Another guest in the royal castle, Ronalus is the servant to the Queen of Luxonne. Although he enjoys a higher status by serving the queen, he has a good relationship with other servants. His role is to monitor Meissen.

Hauranne Balzola

VA: Daisuke Namikawa

A wizard staying in the royal castle who is treated as a guest, but he's been in the castle longer than anyone. He's lived a *long* life...and his real age doesn't match his looks.

Lilley Capella

VA: Miyazaki Ui

Another battle maid, but of noble birth, Lilley is fiercely loyal to Sheila. She has innate skill, and her strength is second only to Sheila's. She and her brother Bryon are very close.

Curtis Nile

VA: Akira Ishida

A deadly assassin who specializes in poisons. He raised Sheila, and nearly killed her with his vicious training. Ever since, their relationship has been strained, to say the least.

Michael Faust

VA: Hikaru Midorikawa

A demon who made a contract with Meissen. He's dangerously strong, monologues frequently, and is oddly nervous. His mental instability feeds his pessimism.

Meissen Hildegard

VA: Hiro Shimono

Meissen has a tendency to wander, and he's traveled all over the world. His ladykiller persona hides a powerful wizard. He's searching for the truth and is trying to become a sage...supposedly.



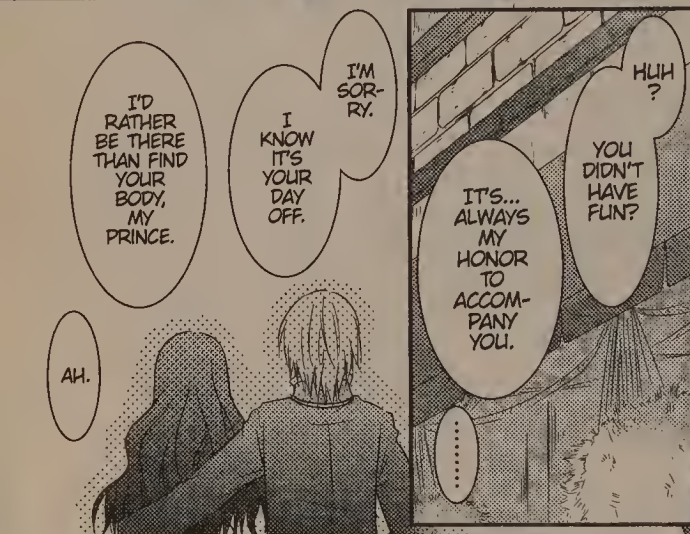
IT'S EXHAUSTING TO PROTECT HIM OUTSIDE.

AND HE WALTZES INTO RESISTANCE MEETINGS!

AAAA-ARGH.

HE INSISTS ON STANDING UP TO BULLIES.

EVEN A MAN LIKE ME CAN CRAVE SUCH A THING.



I'D RATHER BE THERE THAN FIND YOUR BODY, MY PRINCE.

I'M SORRY.

I KNOW IT'S YOUR DAY OFF.

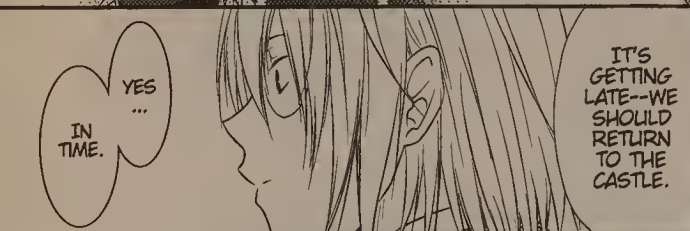
HUH?

YOU DIDN'T HAVE FUN?

IT'S... ALWAYS MY HONOR TO ACCOMPANY YOU.

AH.

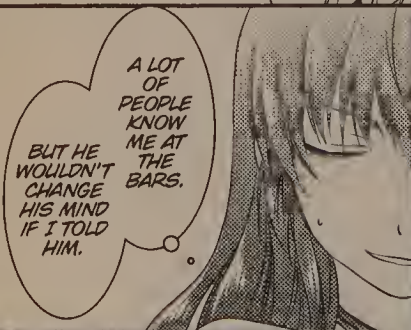
TODAY WAS FUN!



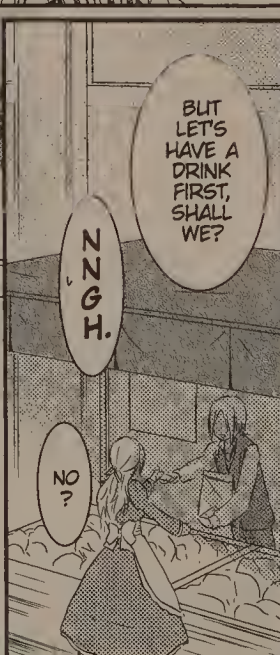
YES ...
IN TIME.

IT'S GETTING LATE--WE SHOULD RETURN TO THE CASTLE.

YOU COULD'VE BEEN KILLED.



A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW ME AT THE BARS.
BUT HE WOULDN'T CHANGE HIS MIND IF I TOLD HIM.



BUT LET'S HAVE A DRINK FIRST, SHALL WE?

NNGH.

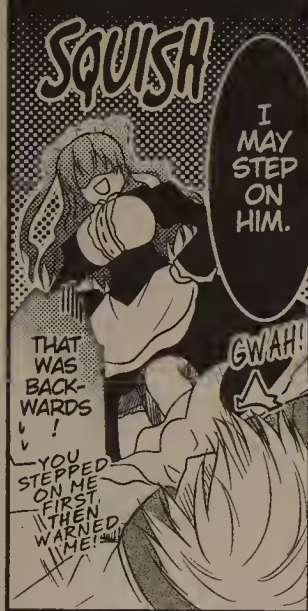
NO?

YES, MY PRINCE.

LET'S GO.

HA!





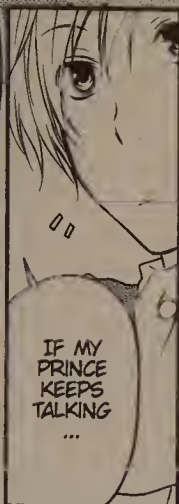
I MAY STEP ON HIM.

THAT WAS BACKWARDS!

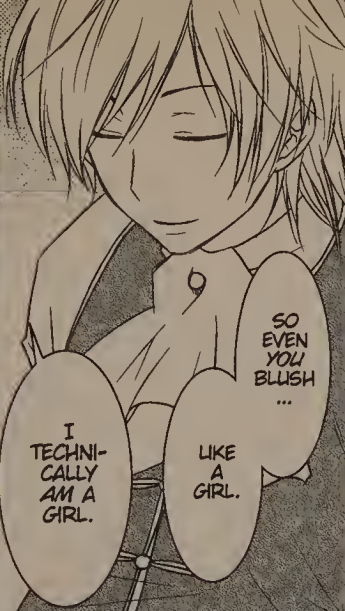
YOU STEPPED ON ME FIRST, THEN WARNED ME!

GWAAH!

UP WE GO



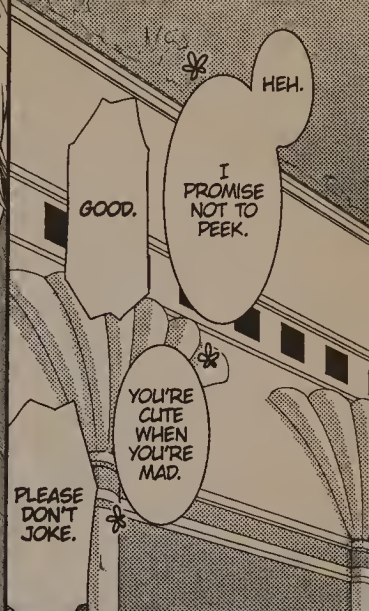
IF MY PRINCE KEEPS TALKING...



I TECHNICALLY AM A GIRL.

SO EVEN YOU BLUSH...

LIKE A GIRL.

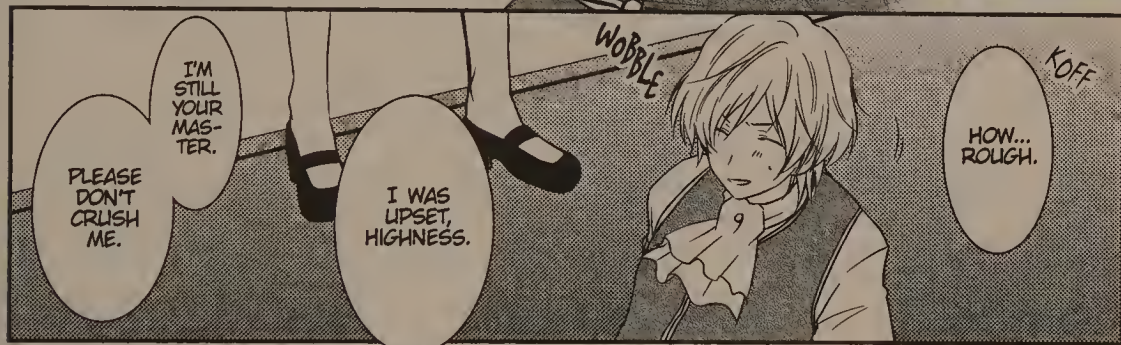


GOOD.

I PROMISE NOT TO PEEK.

YOU'RE CLUTE WHEN YOU'RE MAD.

PLEASE DON'T JOKE.



PLEASE DON'T CRUSH ME.

I'M STILL YOUR MASTER.

I WAS UPSET, HIGHNESS.

WOBBLE

KOFF

HOW... ROUGH.



BUT...

YES.



YOU MAKE ME SOUND LIKE A SEXUAL DEVIANT.

SMILE

YOU DON'T LIKE BEING STEPPED ON?

DOOF

THERE IS NEVER HATE.

ONLY GENTLE, UNRESERVED KINSHIP.

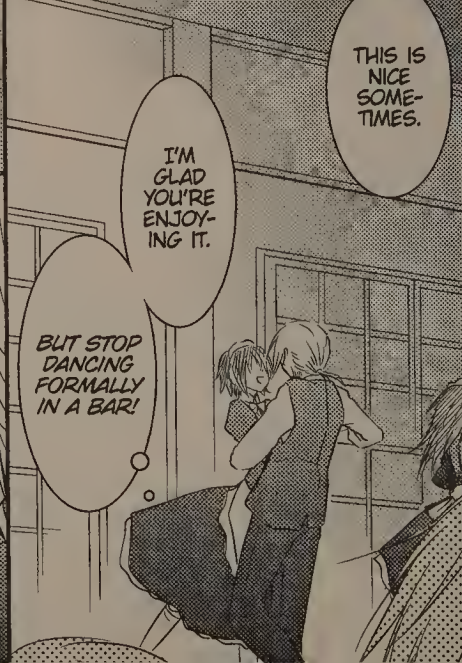
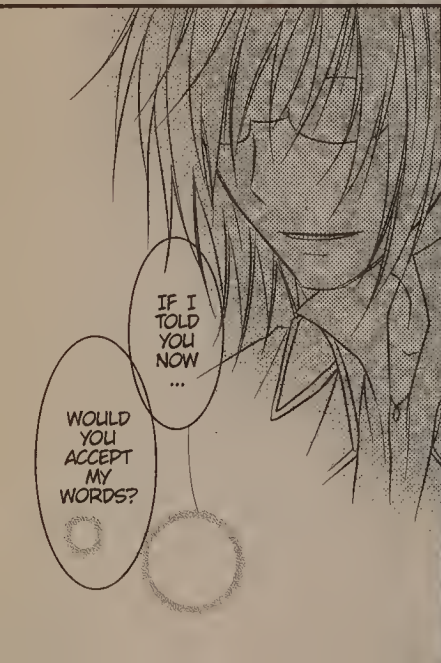
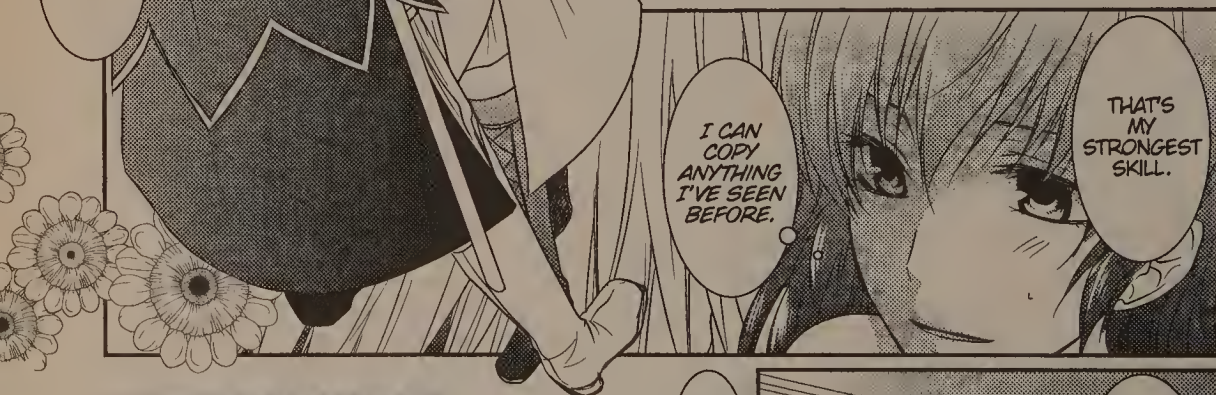
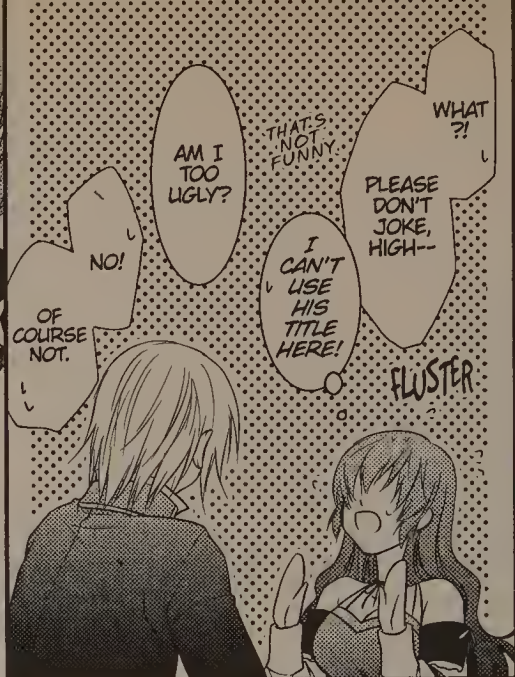
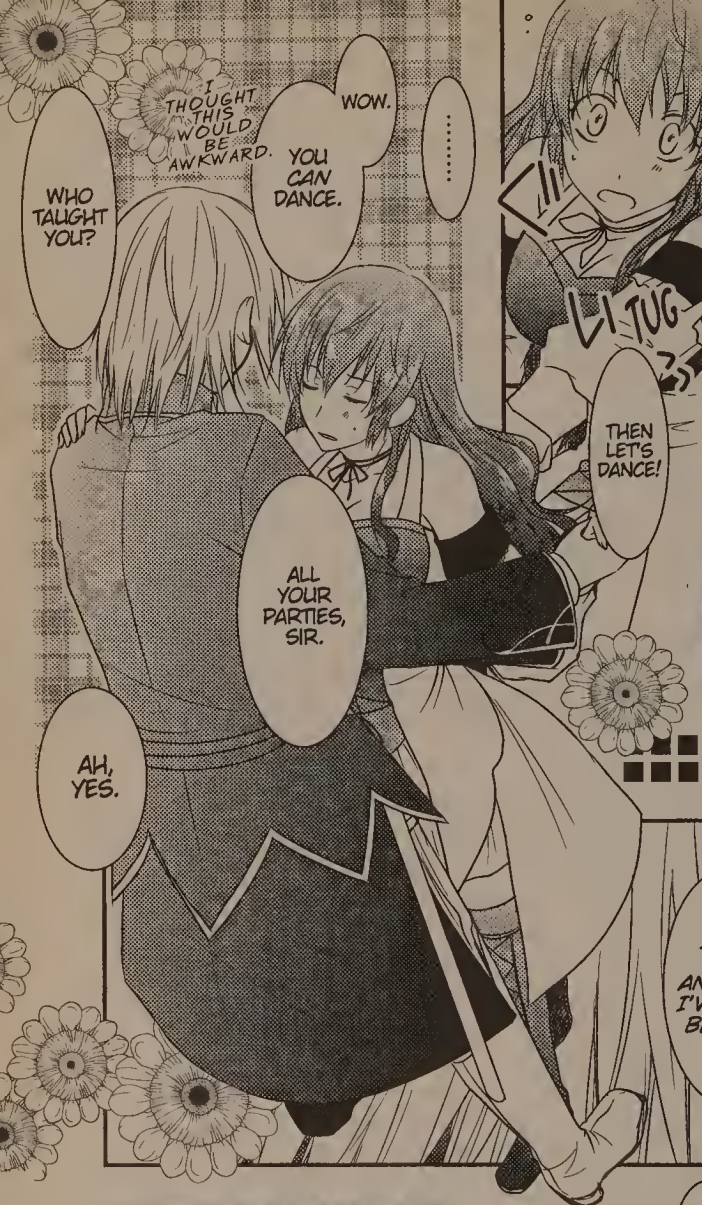


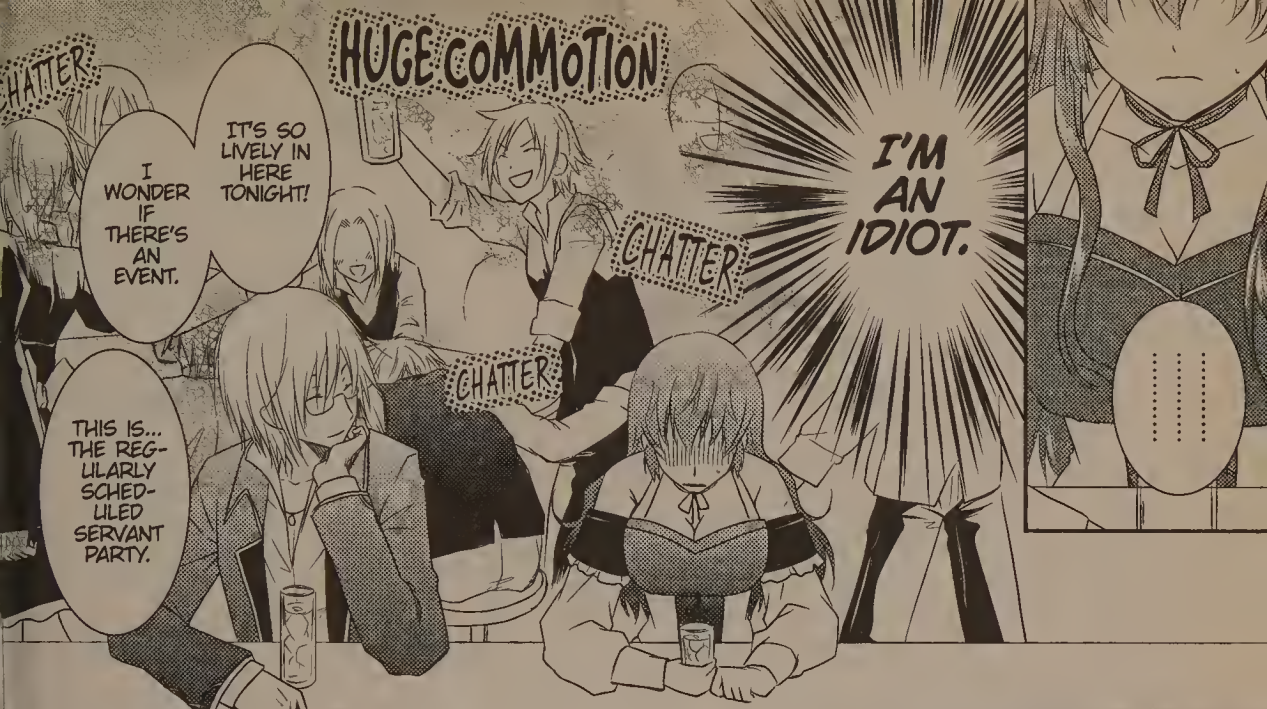
NO MATTER HOW OFTEN IT STEPS ON ME WITH ITS LOVING PAWS...

I DON'T DISLIKE BEING STEPPED ON BY YOU.

IT'S LIKE A KITTEN.

I NEVER FEEL PAIN OR FEAR.





CHATTER

I WONDER IF THERE'S AN EVENT.

IT'S SO LIVELY IN HERE TONIGHT!

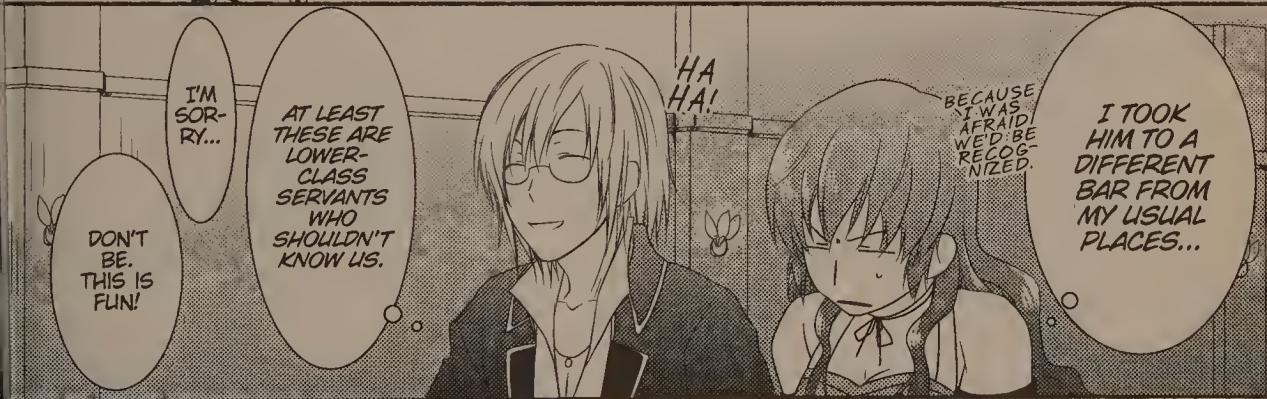
HUGE COMMOTION

CHATTER

CHATTER

I'M AN IDIOT.

THIS IS... THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED SERVANT PARTY.



I'M SORRY...

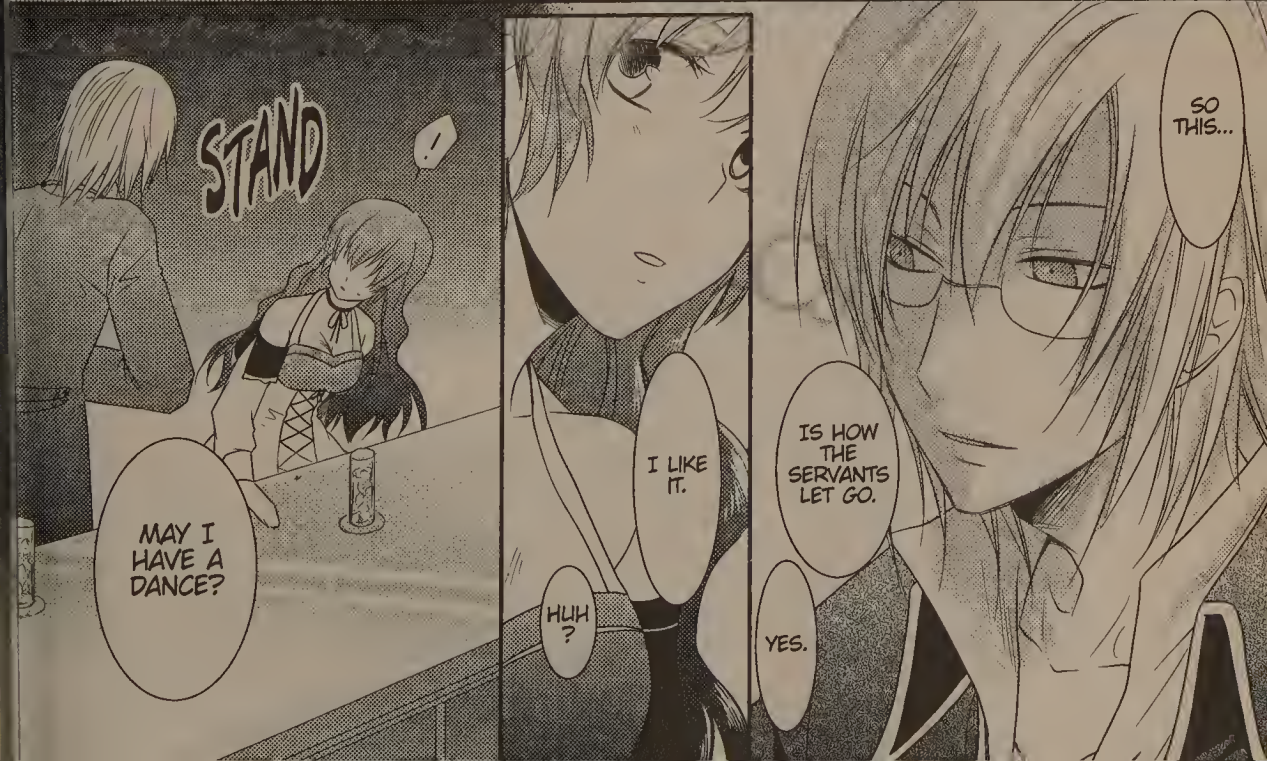
HA HA!

BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID WE'D BE RECOGNIZED.

I TOOK HIM TO A DIFFERENT BAR FROM MY USUAL PLACES...

AT LEAST THESE ARE LOWER-CLASS SERVANTS WHO SHOULDN'T KNOW US.

DON'T BE. THIS IS FUN!



STAND

MAY I HAVE A DANCE?

SO THIS...

I LIKE IT.

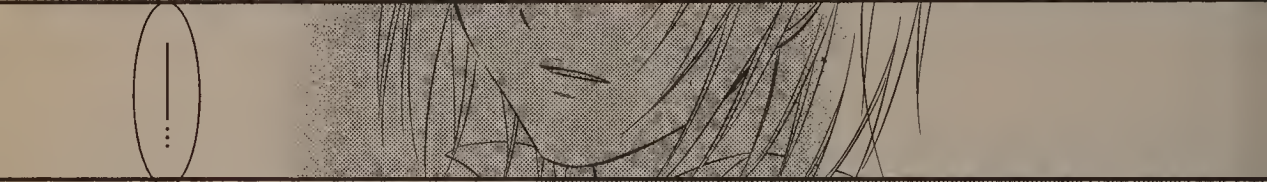
IS HOW THE SERVANTS LET GO.

YES.

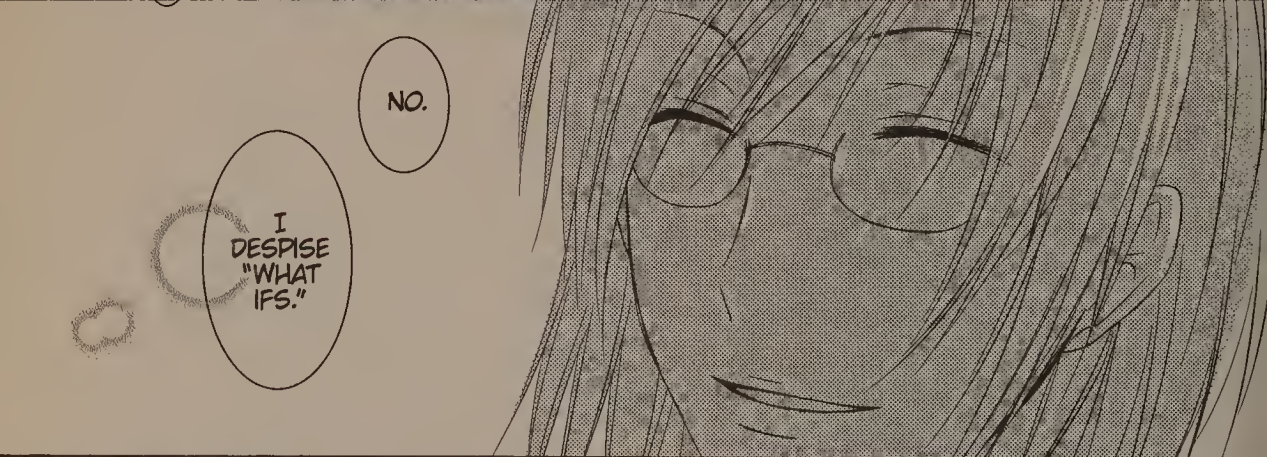
HUH?



IS THAT
WHAT
YOU'RE
TRYING TO
TELL ME,
SIR?

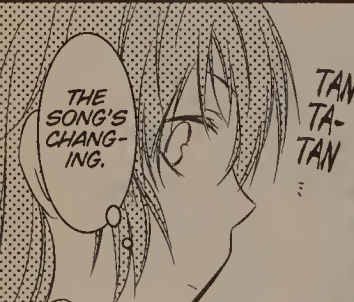


—
...



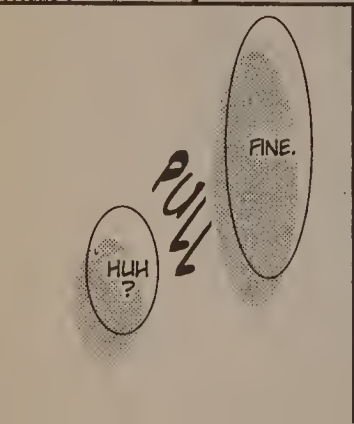
NO.

I
DESPISE
"WHAT
IFS."



THE
SONG'S
CHANG-
ING.

TAN
TA-
TAN



FINE.

HUH?

PULL



JANGLE

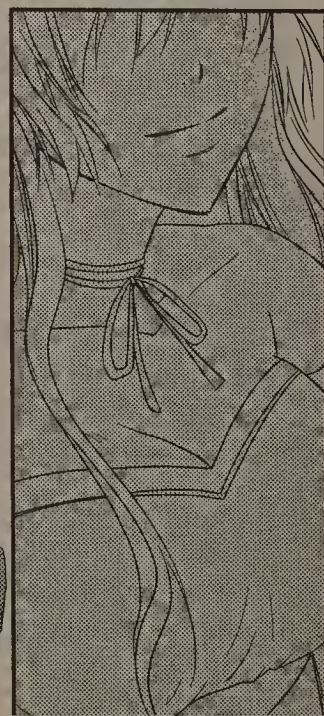


I
THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
PLAY
ALONG
FOR A
CHANGE.

TOO
BAD.

YOUR
COM-
MONER
PLAY?

CURSES.





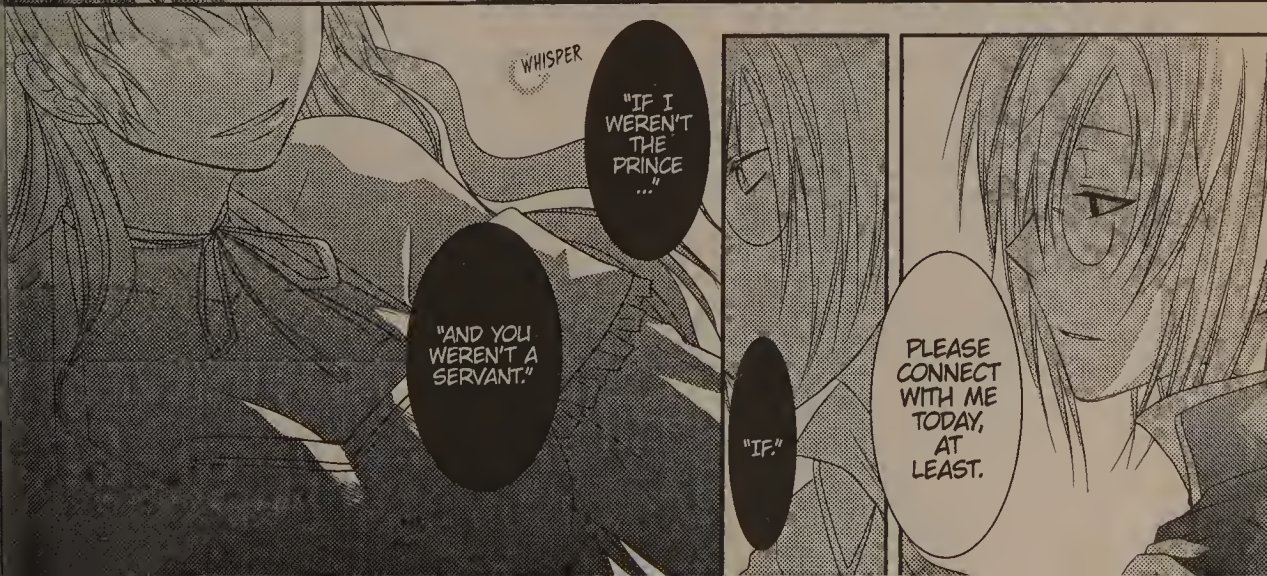
I'M
IN
LOVE
WITH
YOU.

SHEILA.



AND
I
ADMIRE
YOU.

HEH.



WHISPER

"AND YOU
WEREN'T A
SERVANT."

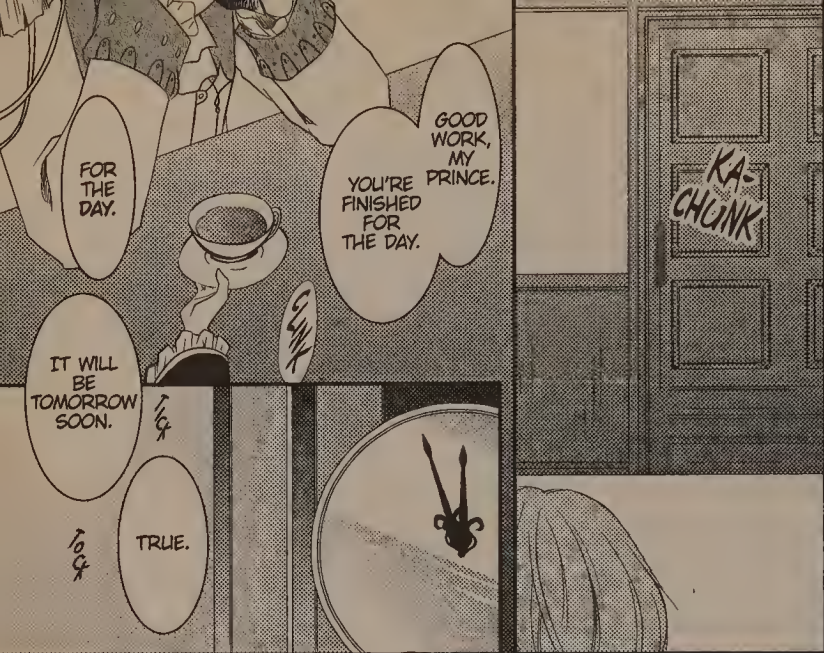
"IF I
WEREN'T
THE
PRINCE
..."



"IF."



PLEASE
CONNECT
WITH ME
TODAY,
AT
LEAST.



FOR THE DAY.

YOU'RE FINISHED FOR THE DAY.

GOOD WORK, MY PRINCE.

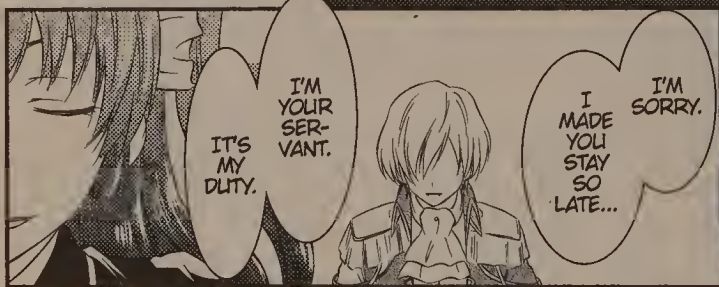
KA-CHUNK

IT WILL BE TOMORROW SOON.

♪ ♪

TRUE.

♪ ♪



IT'S MY DUTY.

I'M YOUR SERVANT.

I MADE YOU STAY SO LATE...

I'M SORRY.



I WAS CHEEKY.

DID YOU LIKE THAT?

OH.

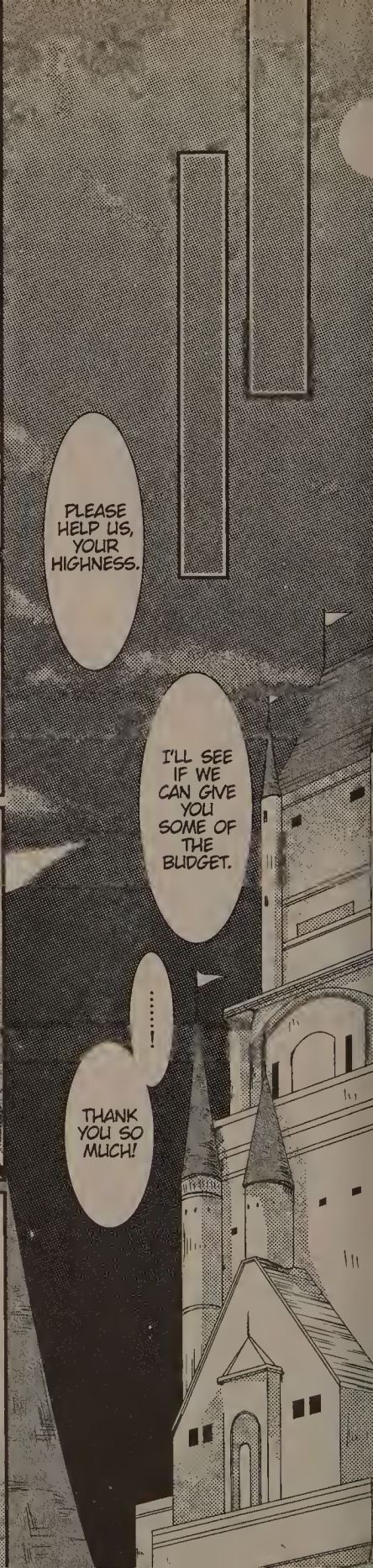
I MEAN YESTERDAY.

YOU ...



YES.

VERY MUCH SO.



PLEASE HELP US, YOUR HIGHNESS.

I'LL SEE IF WE CAN GIVE YOU SOME OF THE BUDGET.

.....!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!



DO I
STEP
LIKE
THIS?

WHAT
...
HM.

EXACT-
LY!

NICE
WORK,
SIR.

I
KNEW
IT.

ISN'T
IT
FUN?

FWIFF

LET'S
DANCE
THE WAY
COMMON-
ERS
DANCE!

NOW.

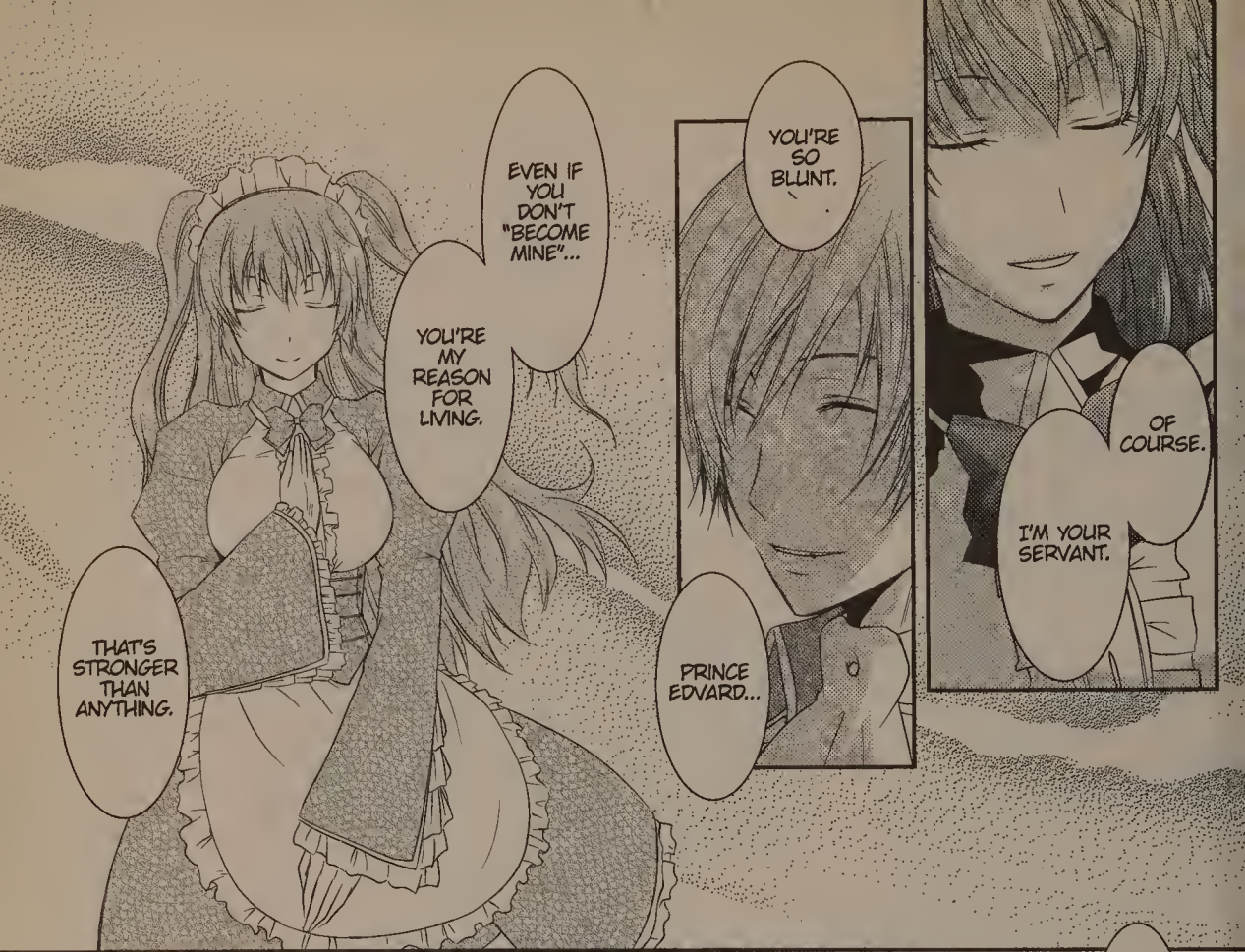
PLEASE
TAKE
THIS
HAND.

SLIDE

...JAY.

WHISPER

I
WILL.



THAT'S
STRONGER
THAN
ANYTHING.

YOU'RE
MY
REASON
FOR
LIVING.

EVEN IF
YOU
DON'T
"BECOME
MINE"...

PRINCE
EDVARD...

YOU'RE
SO
BLUNT.

I'M YOUR
SERVANT.

OF
COURSE.



AND
YOU'RE
THE BEST
SERVANT
I'LL
EVER
HAVE.

IS
EVERY-
THING
TO
ME.

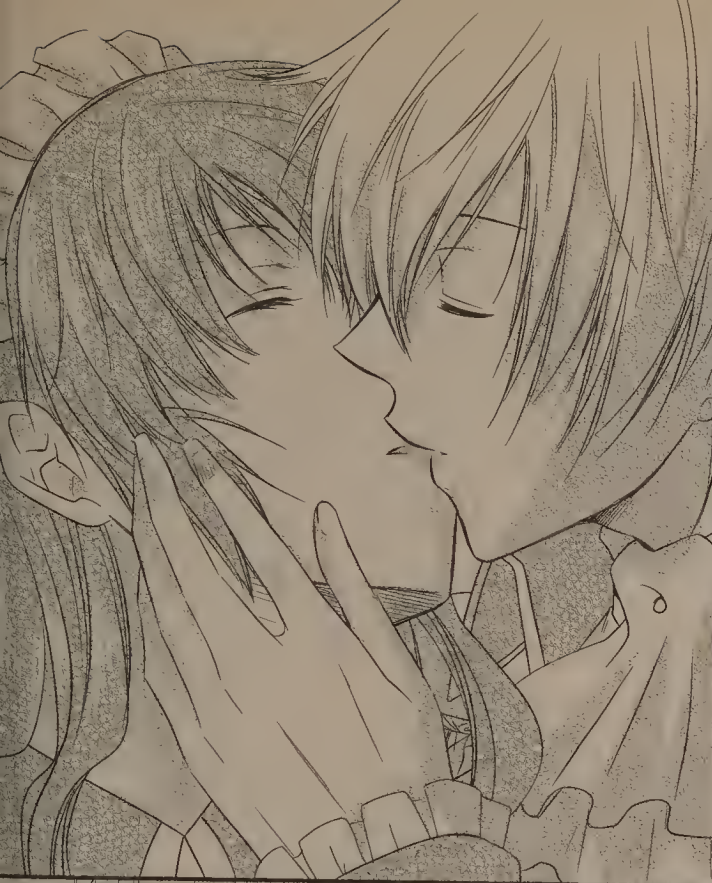
MY
PRINCE
...

HEH
HEH.

BUT
SO
AM I.

I'M
PRETTY
WARPED.

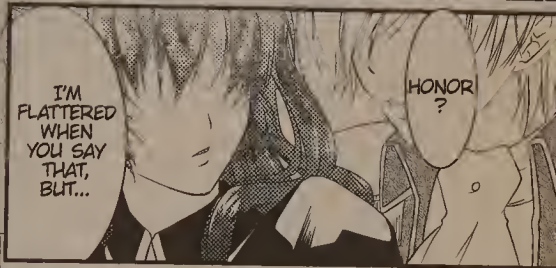
REALLY
?



PLEASE
DON'T.

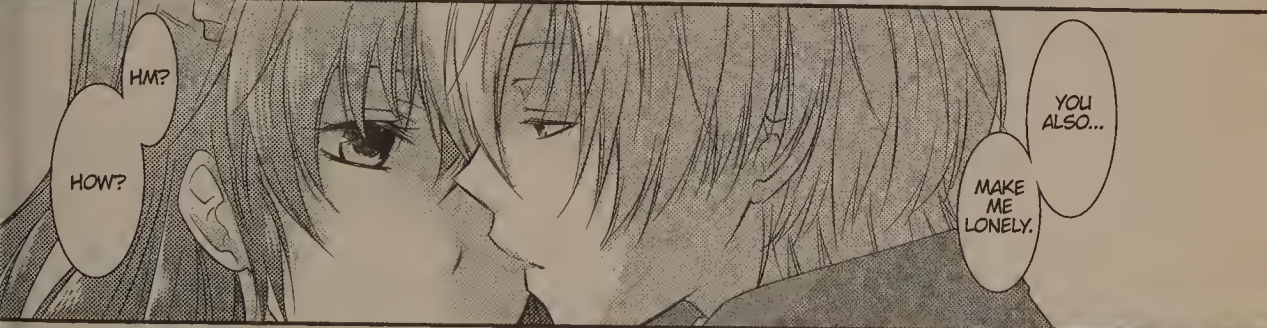
BUT
LATELY I'VE
CONSUMED
ALL YOUR
FREE DAYS,
SHEILA.
I FEEL
TERRIBLE.

IT'S AN
HONOR.



I'M
FLATTERED
WHEN
YOU SAY
THAT,
BUT...

HONOR
?

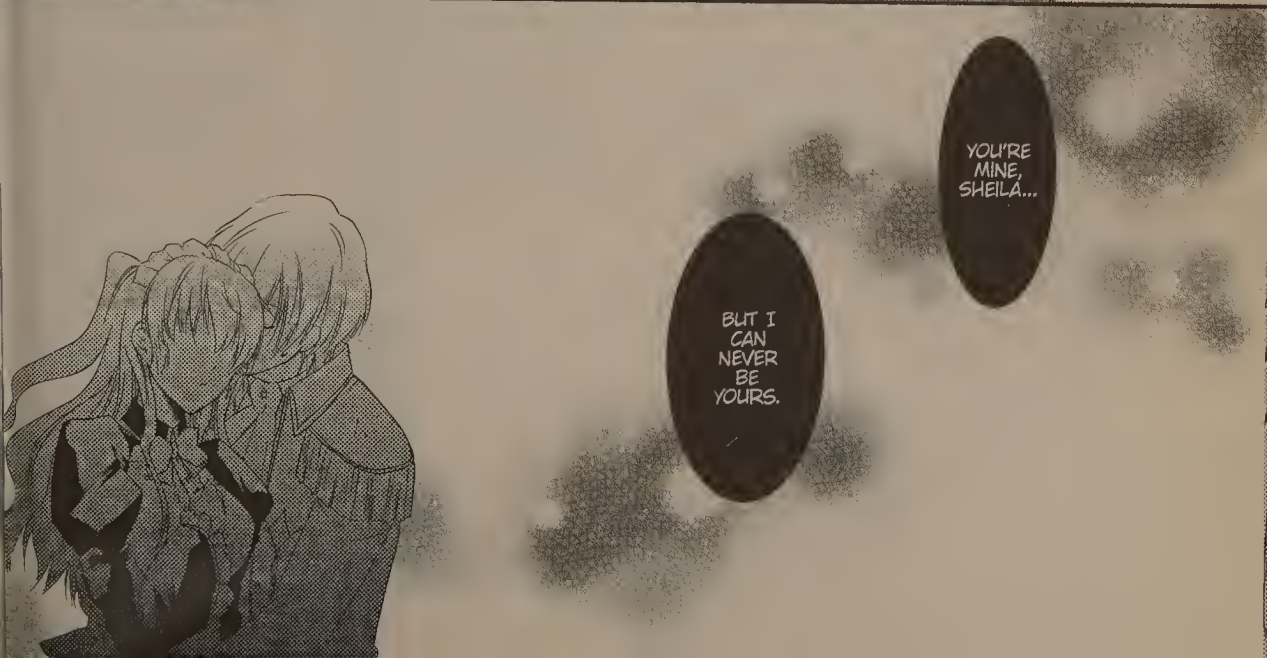


HMM?

HOW?

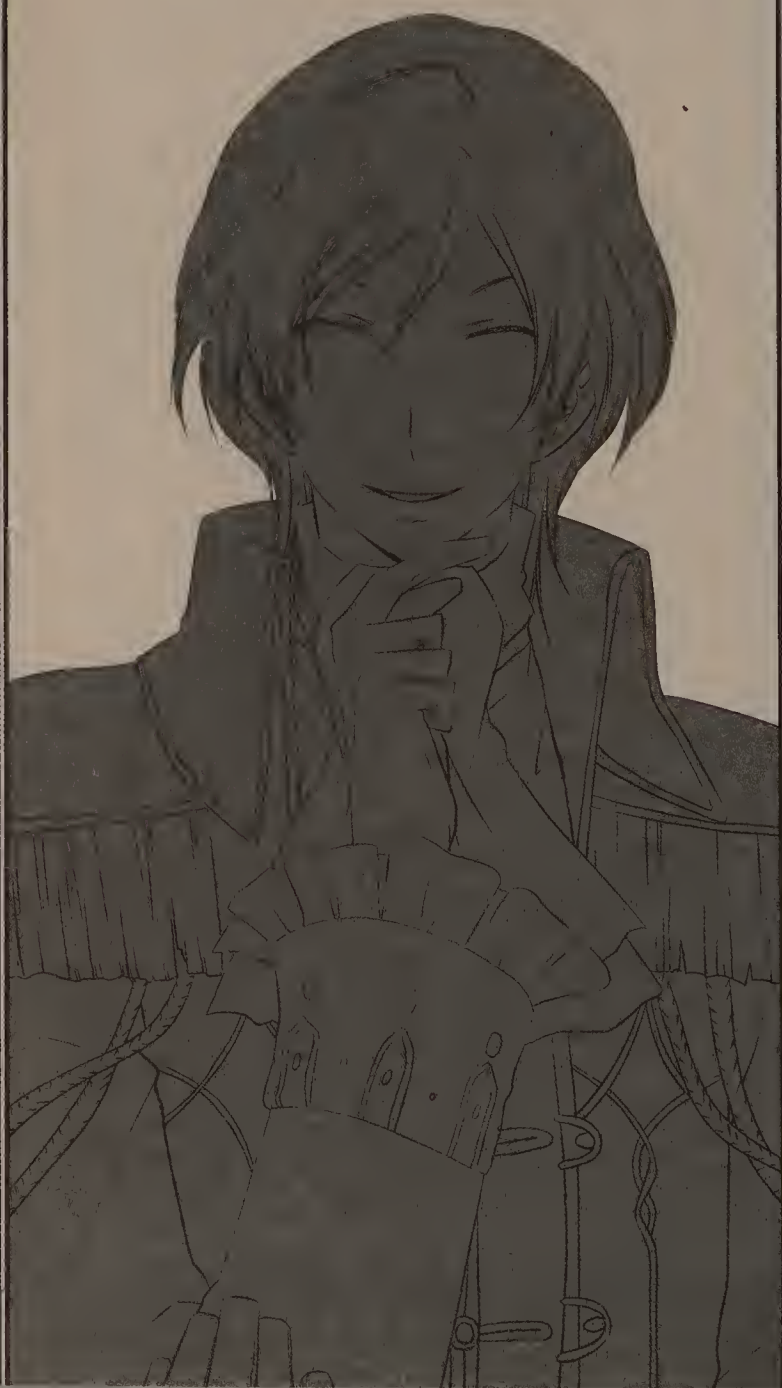
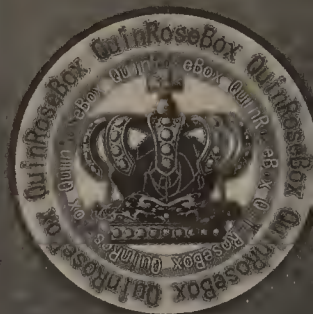
YOU
ALSO...

MAKE
ME
LONELY.

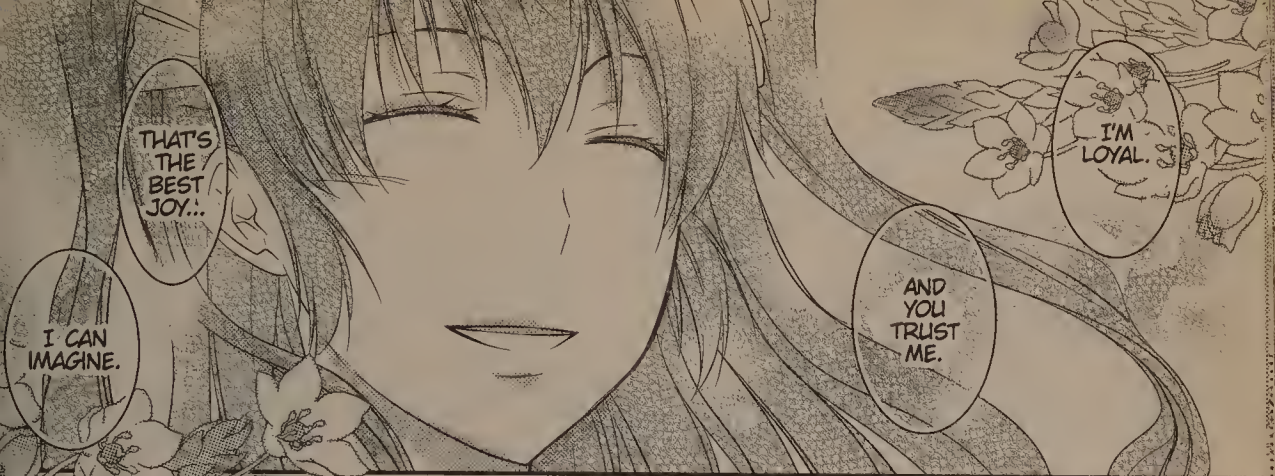


YOU'RE
MINE,
SHEILA...

BUT I
CAN
NEVER
BE
YOURS.



QuinRoseBox

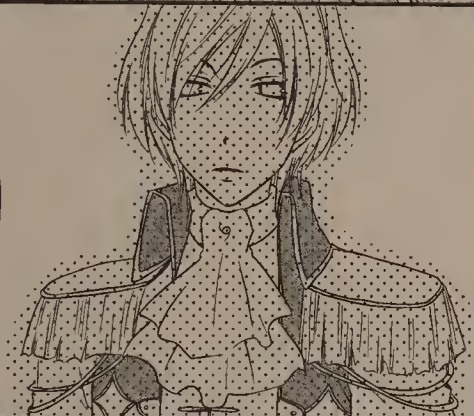


THAT'S
THE
BEST
JOY..

I CAN
IMAGINE.

I'M
LOYAL.

AND
YOU
TRUST
ME.



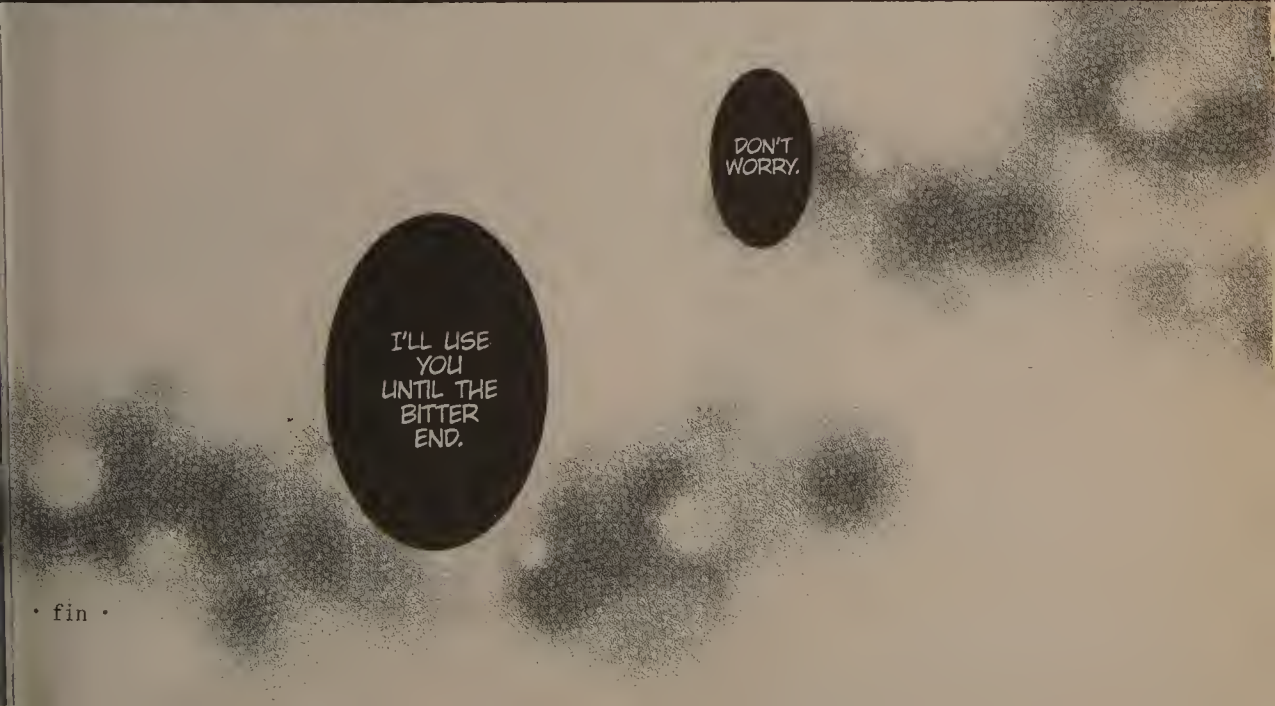
THROUGH
THE LAST
POSSIBLE
MOMENT...

USE
ME, MY
PRINCE.

PLEASE
USE ME
FOR THE
REST
OF MY
LIFE.

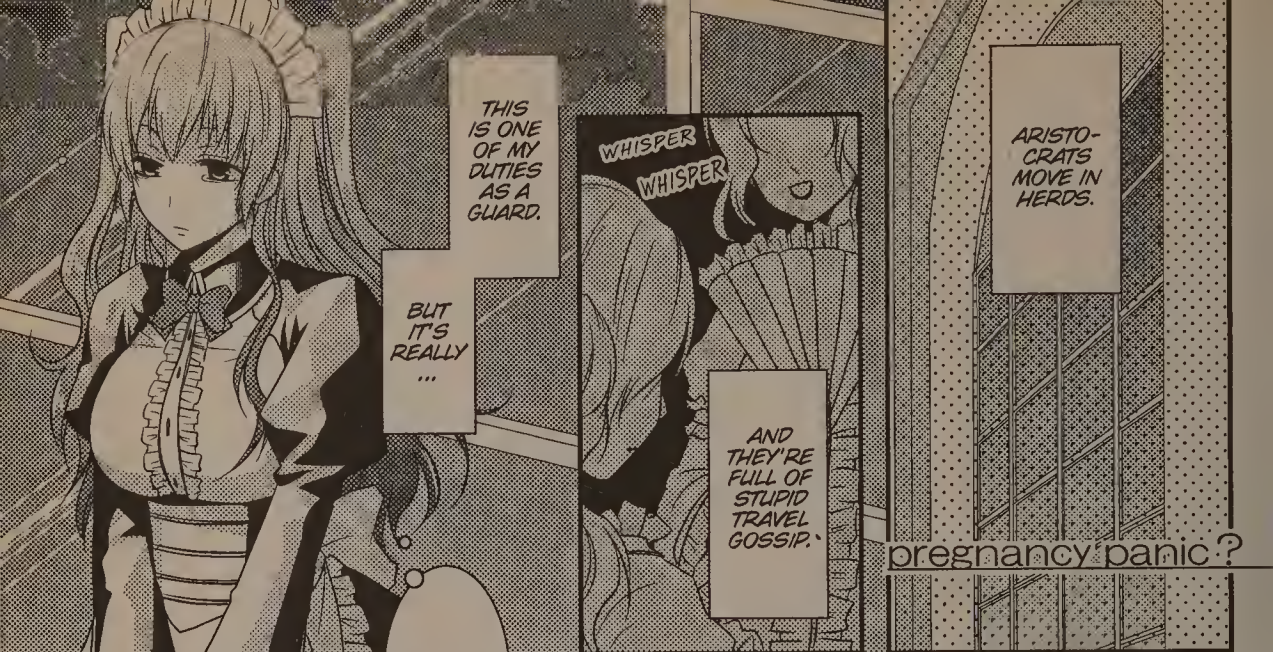


MM.



DON'T
WORRY.

I'LL USE
YOU
UNTIL THE
BITTER
END.



THIS IS ONE OF MY DUTIES AS A GUARD.

BUT IT'S REALLY ...

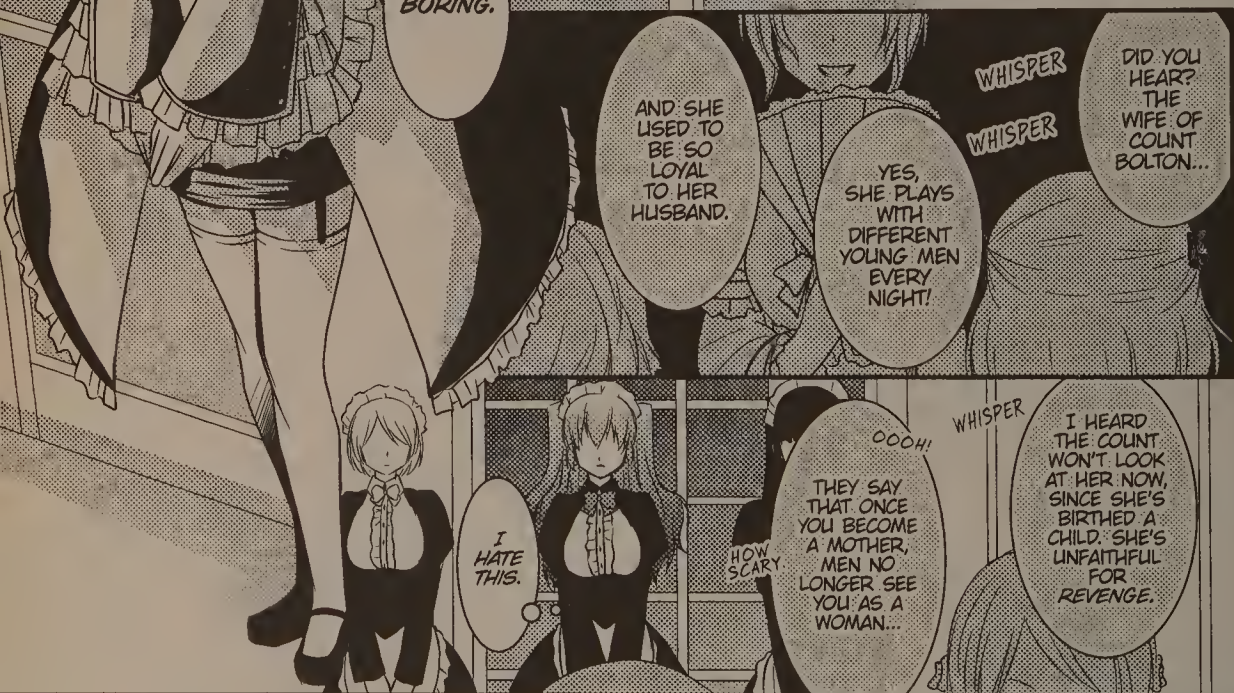
BORING.

WHISPER
WHISPER

AND THEY'RE FULL OF STUPID TRAVEL GOSSIP.

ARISTO-CRATS MOVE IN HERDS.

pregnancy panic?



AND SHE USED TO BE SO LOYAL TO HER HUSBAND.

YES, SHE PLAYS WITH DIFFERENT YOUNG MEN EVERY NIGHT!

DID YOU HEAR? THE WIFE OF COUNT BOLTON...

WHISPER
WHISPER

I HATE THIS.

HOW SCARY

THEY SAY THAT ONCE YOU BECOME A MOTHER, MEN NO LONGER SEE YOU AS A WOMAN...

I HEARD THE COUNT WON'T LOOK AT HER NOW, SINCE SHE'S BIRTHED A CHILD. SHE'S UNFAITHFUL FOR REVENGE.

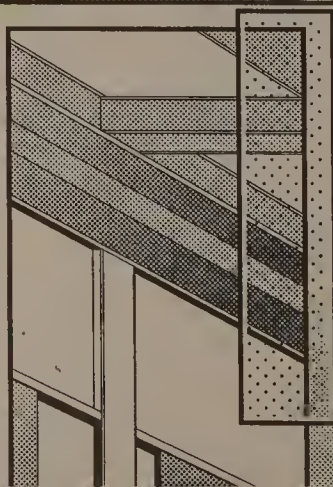
WHISPER

OOOH!



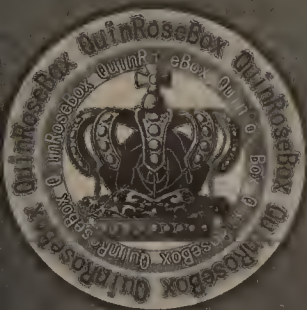
WOBBLE

WOBBLE

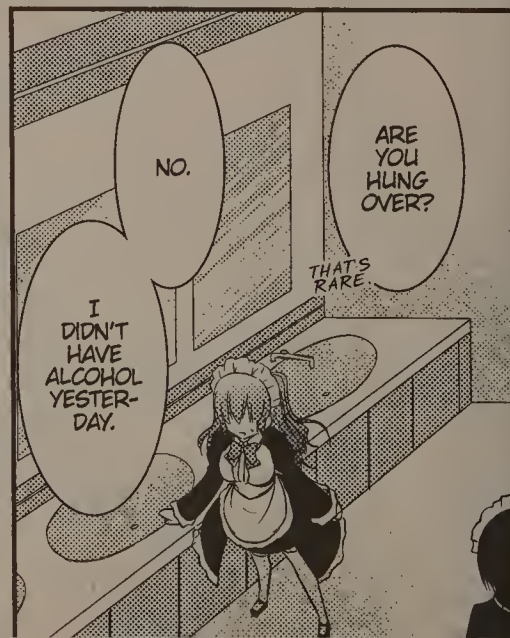
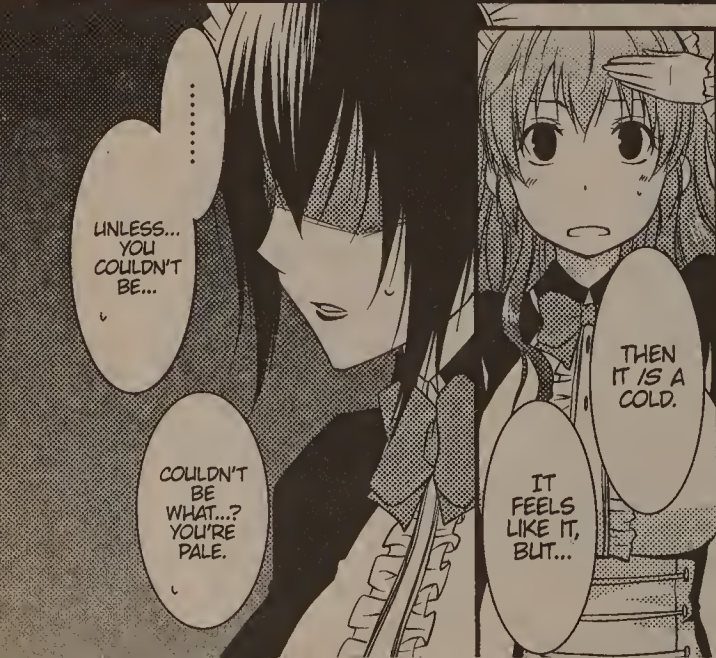
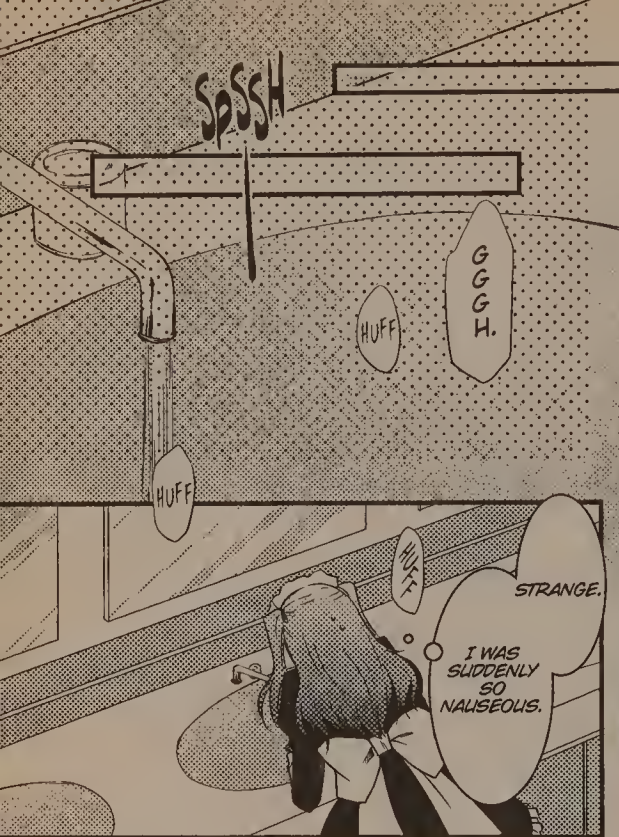


BUT THEY'RE EXCITED ABOUT SOMETHING.

NOTE: The preceding *Crimson Empire* short story and the one that follows feature love routes for Sheila & Prince Edvard and Sheila & Count Bryon, respectively.



QuinRoseBox





YOU'RE STILL HUMAN.

EVERY-ONE GETS SICK SOME-TIMES.

NO...

A COLD?
YOUR SKIN'S WARM.

PA

I'M NOT THAT WEAK.

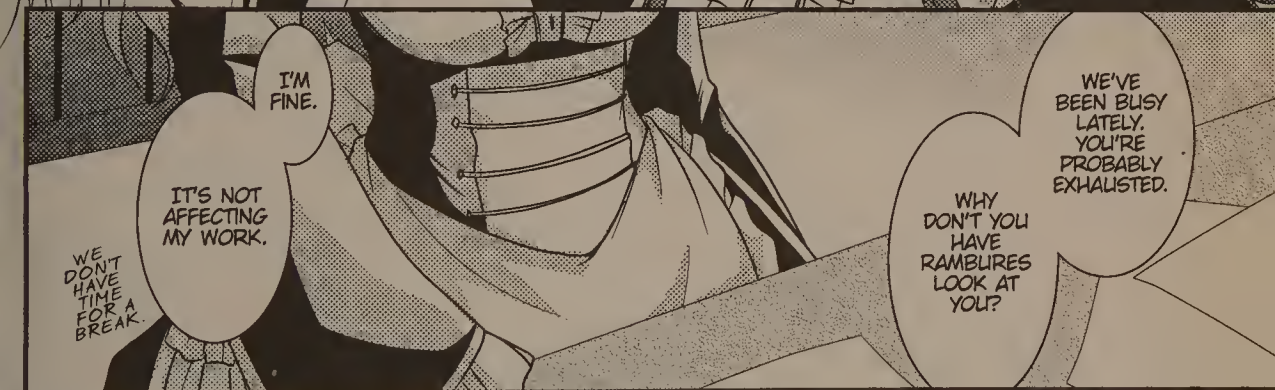
I FEEL... TIRED.

VAR-CHIA.

ARE YOU SICK?

YOU'RE WOBBLING.

WHAT'S WRONG?



I'M FINE.

IT'S NOT AFFECTING MY WORK.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR A BREAK.

WHY DON'T YOU HAVE RAMBURES LOOK AT YOU?

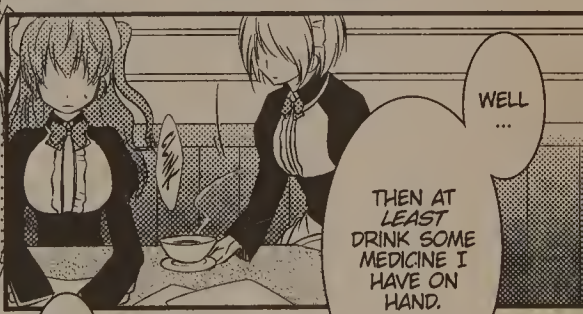
WE'VE BEEN BUSY LATELY. YOU'RE PROBABLY EXHAUSTED.



?!

WHAT IS IT?!

...



WELL ...

THEN AT LEAST DRINK SOME MEDICINE I HAVE ON HAND.



MM.

THANK--

AND LORD
BRYON
IS...
KNOW-
EDGEABLE.

EVEN
THOUGH I
WASN'T
TRAINED
TO USE SEX
AS A SPY,
I KNOW
THE BASIC
METHODS.

HMM.

I NEVER
THOUGHT
ABOUT
GETTING
PREGNANT.

IT'S NOT
IMPOSSI-
BLE.

I'M A
WOMAN.
AFTER
ALL.

THE MAN
WHO'S
NEXT IN
LINE IN
THE
CAPELLA
FAMILY...

CON-
SORTING
WITH A
MAID.

HOW
CRUDE.

I
SHOULDN'T
WORRY
UNTIL I'VE
BEEN
CHECKED.

CLATTER

WHAT IF
I AM
PREGNANT?

IF THIS
HAD
HAPPENED
EARLIER...

Stop

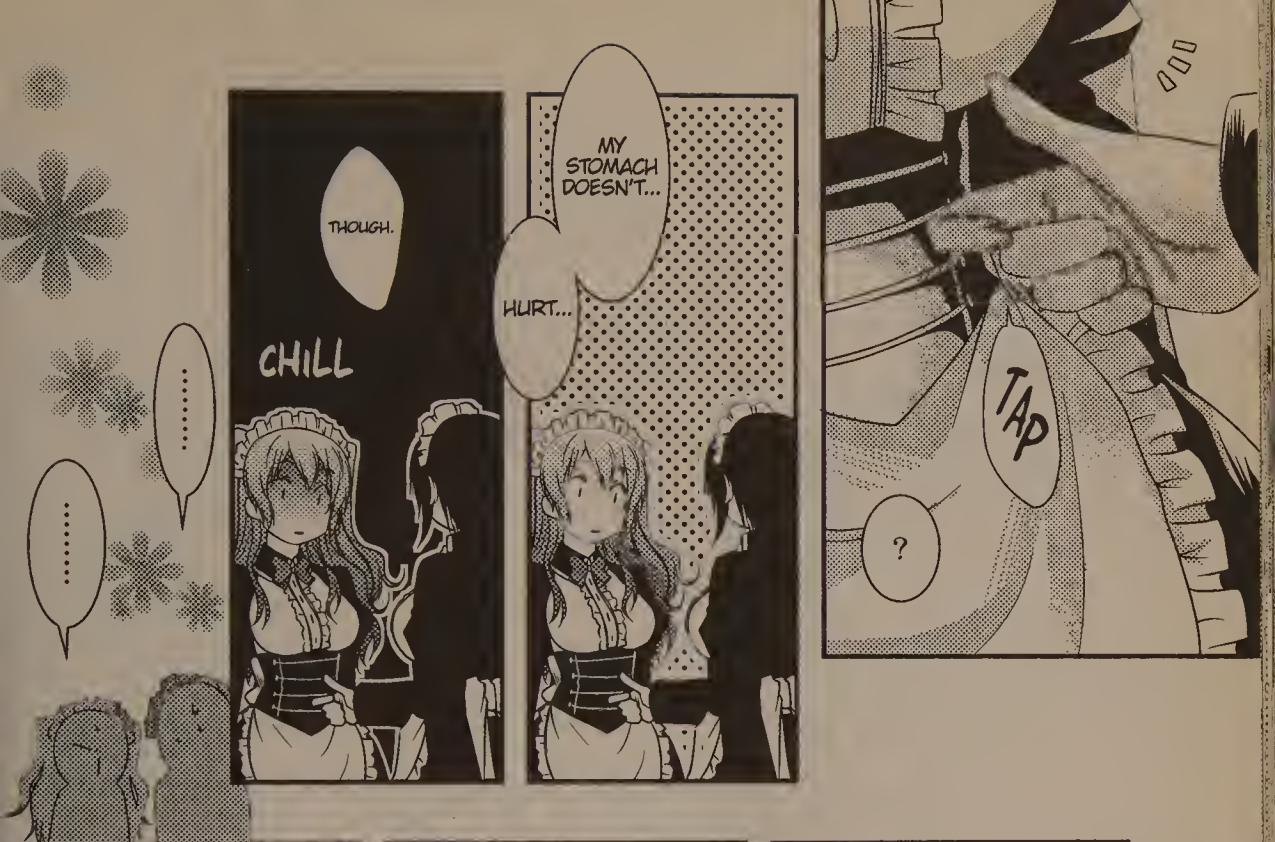
TAP

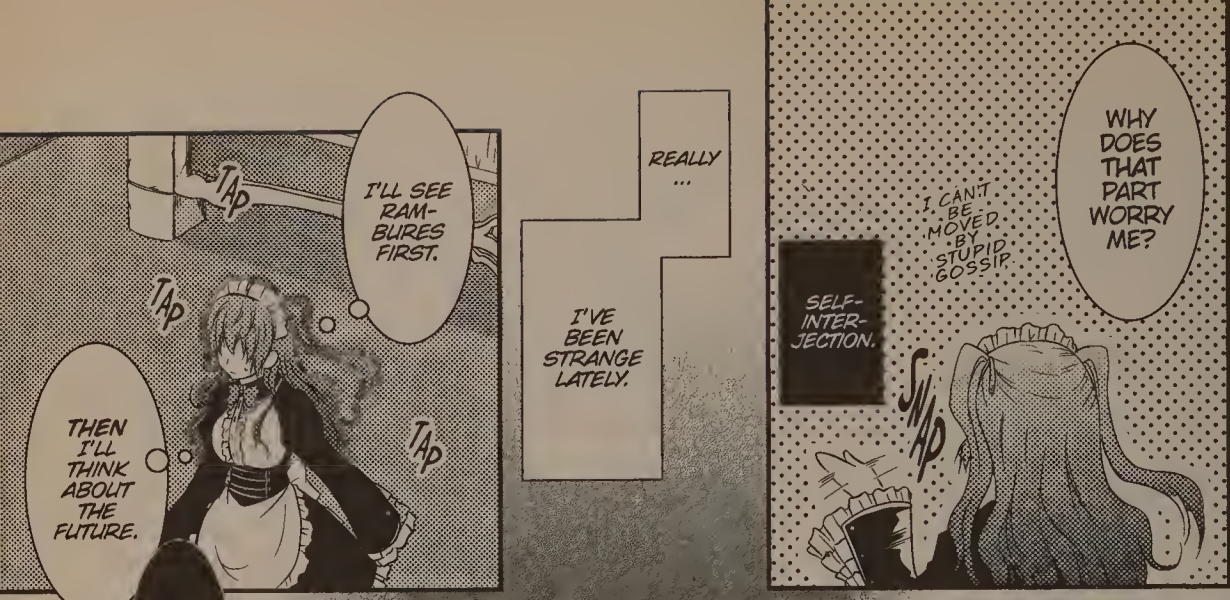
TAP

GOING
TO A
DOCTOR
...

MAY
STIMULATE
GOSSIP,
THOUGH.

I NEED
RAMBURES
FOR THIS.





I'LL SEE RAM-BURES FIRST.

REALLY ...

I'VE BEEN STRANGE LATELY.

THEN I'LL THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE.

WHY DOES THAT PART WORRY ME?

I CAN'T BE MOVED BY STUPID GOSSIP

SELF-INTERSECTION.

Snap



BIG SISTER!

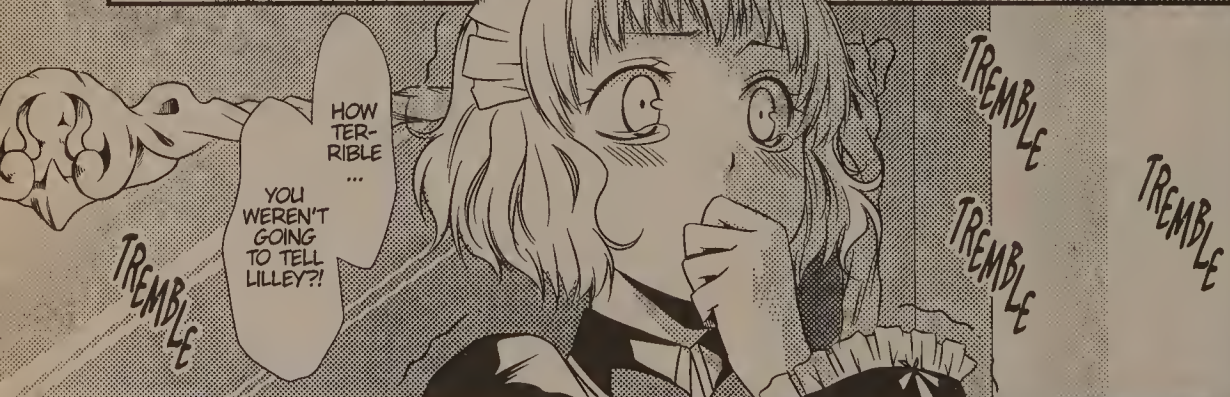
Wobble

WHA --?

LILLEY?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY ROOM?!

FLINCH



HOW TERRIBLE ...

YOU WEREN'T GOING TO TELL LILLEY?!

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

TREMBLE



BIG SISTER.

LILLEY, IT ISN'T WHAT YOU THINK!

I'M JUST... ER...

HUH?! HOW DO YOU KNOW?!

LILLEY OVER-HEARD YOU TALKING WITH THE VICE-MAID!

DAMN.

THEN
...

WHAT'S
CHANGED
?

BEFORE
ANYONE
COULD
KNOW.

AND RIGHT
AFTERWARD
I WOULD'VE
FACED LORD
BRYON WITH
A SMILE.

I
WOULDN'T
HAVE
HESITATED.

I
WOULD'VE
TAKEN
CARE OF
IT...

THAT
MAN.

"WILL
YOU
MARRY
ME?"

LORD
BRYON...

HUH?

TOUCH

HE
LOVES
FAMILY.

"...ONCE
YOU
BECOME A
MOTHER,
MEN NO
LONGER..."

I'M SURE
HE'D WANT
TO KEEP
THE CHILD,
EVEN IF IT
WAS A
SCANDAL.



YOU
HAVE
TO
HEAR!

GOOD-
NESS!

WHO
CARES
ABOUT
THAT NOW,
BIG
BROTHER?

HM?

HMPH.

THE
ART I
SENT
YOU IS
STILL
IN ITS
BOX.

BUT IT
WAS...
OPENED.
(BY
VARCHIA.)

MUMBLE

MUMBLE

BUT,
AS
USUAL
...

YOUR
ROOM IS
EMPTY
AND
DULL.

WAIT,
LILLEY!

I'M
NOT
SURE
YET!

SHE
...

I-IS
THIS
TRUE,
SHEILA
?!

UH-
OH

MARVELOUS
WORK,
SHEILA!!

はあ
あ
あ

あ
あ
あ

HERG
H.



は
SPIN!!

HOW
TYPICAL
OF BIG
BROTHER--
TO FATHER
A CHILD
WITHOUT
BIG SISTER
KNOWING!

LILLEY WAS
WORRIED
ABOUT HIM
BECAUSE
HE'S ALWAYS
A COWARD AT
THE LAST
MOMENT.



WAIT.

DON'T
BE! SO
DISTANT!

TELL
THESE
THINGS
TO
LILLEY
IMMEDI-
ATELY!

BEEEEAM
は

あ
あ

あ

あ

あ

SQUEEZE



NO!!

DON'T
TELL
HIM
!!!

THAT'S
NOT A
JAPANESE
CUSTOM!

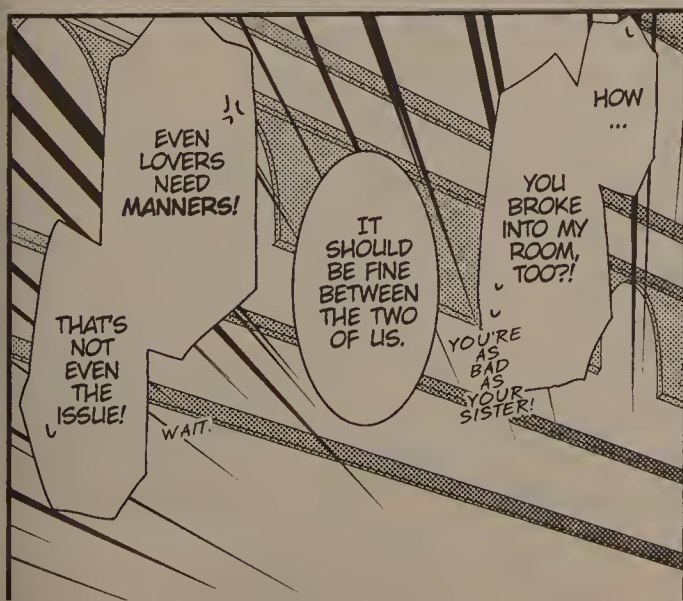
BIG
BROTHER!

TURN!

TURN!

LILLEY
WILL
TELL
HIM
RIGHT
AWAY!

LET'S
HAVE
FESTIVE
RED
RICE
TODAY!



EVEN
LOVERS
NEED
MANNERS!

THAT'S
NOT
EVEN
THE
ISSUE!

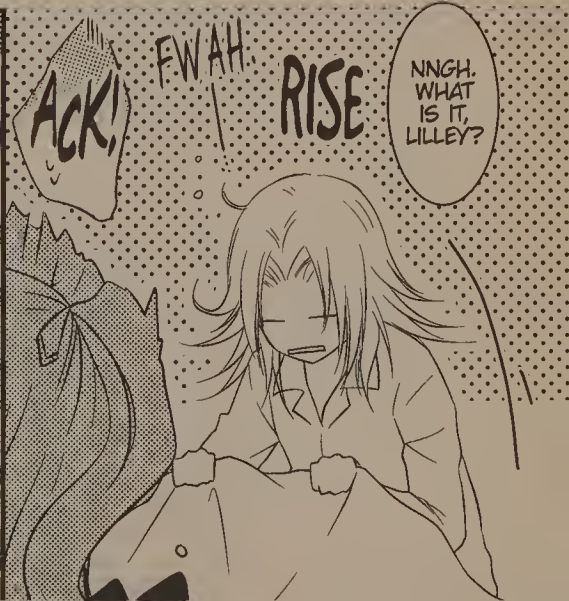
WAIT.

IT
SHOULD
BE FINE
BETWEEN
THE TWO
OF US.

YOU
BROKE
INTO MY
ROOM,
TOO?!

YOU'RE
AS
BAD
AS
YOUR
SISTER!

HOW
...

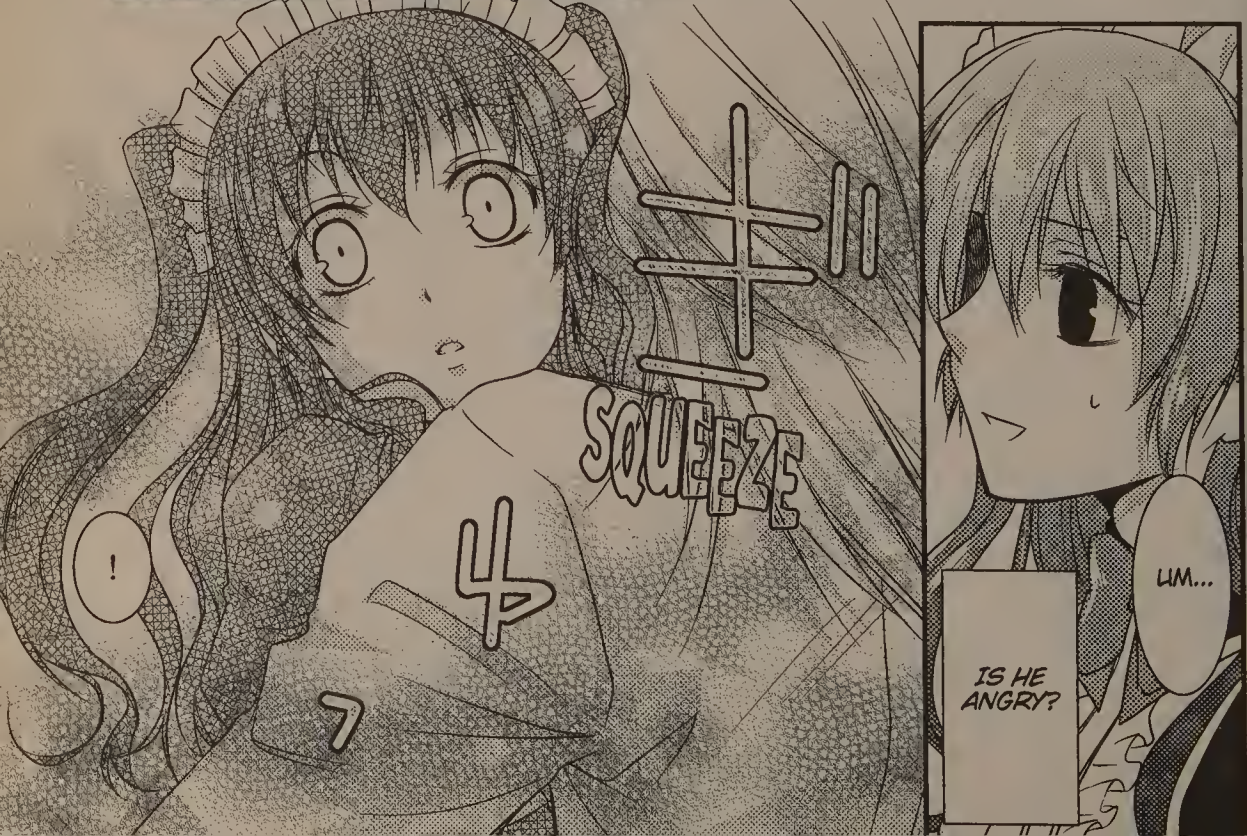
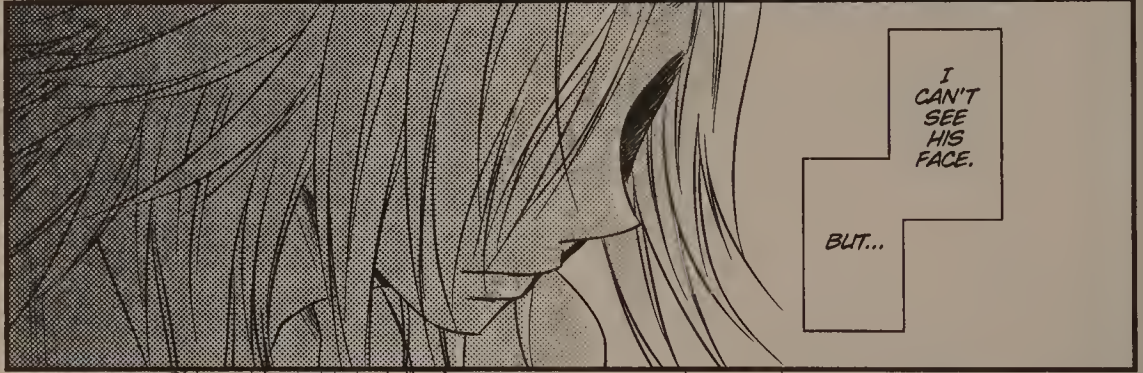
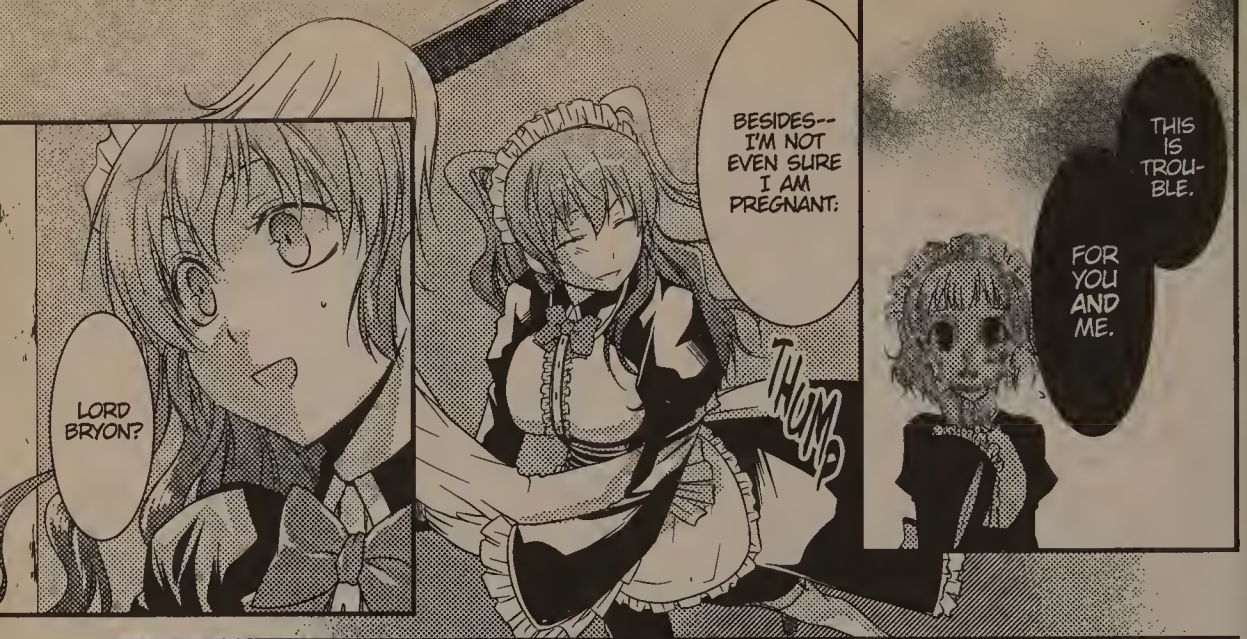


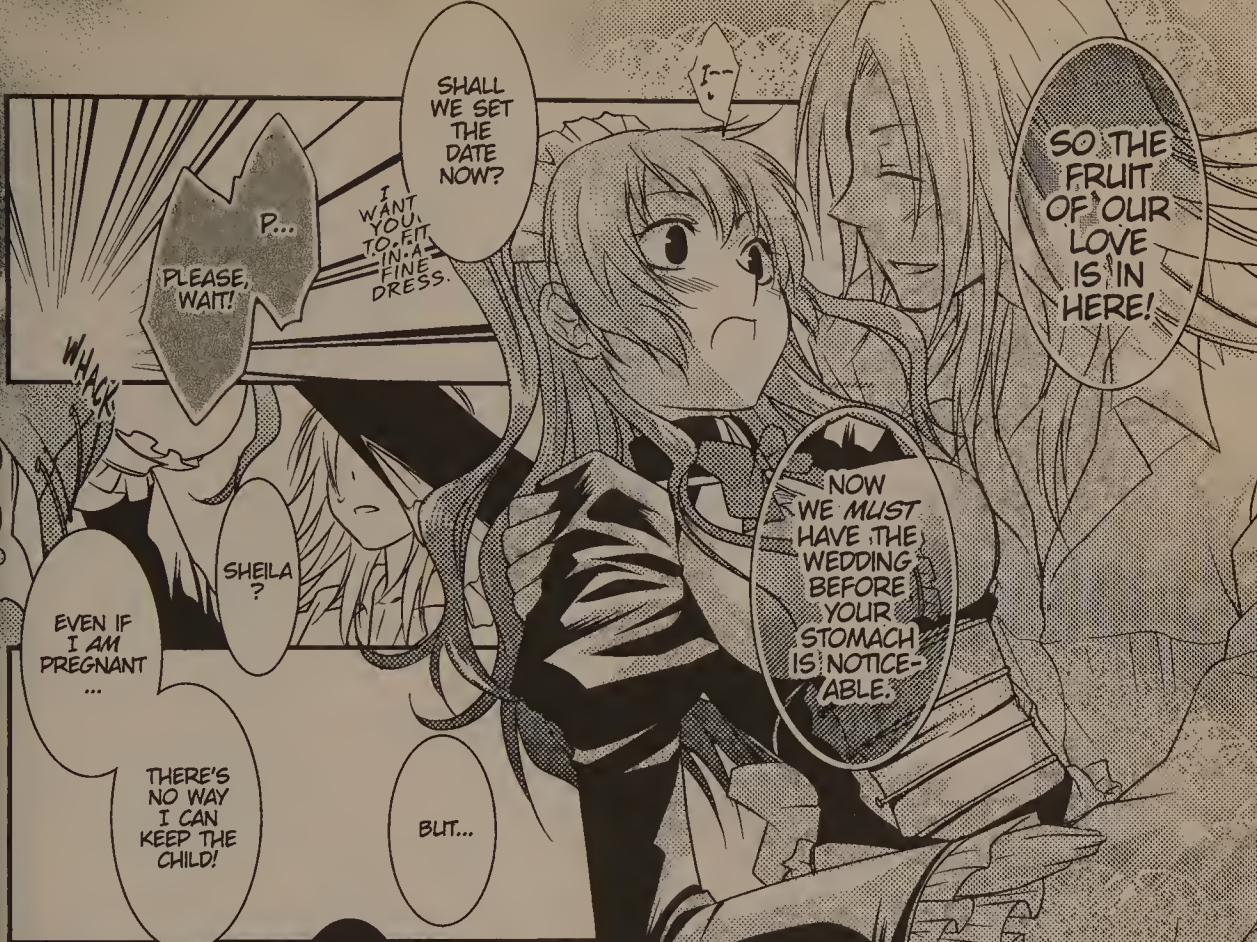
ACK!

FWAH

RISE

NNGH.
WHAT
IS IT,
LILLEY?





SHALL
WE SET
THE
DATE
NOW?

I
WANT
YOU
TO
FIT
IN
A
FINE
DRESS.

SO THE
FRUIT
OF OUR
LOVE
IS IN
HERE!

P...
PLEASE,
WAIT!

NOW
WE MUST
HAVE THE
WEDDING
BEFORE
YOUR
STOMACH
IS NOTICE-
ABLE.

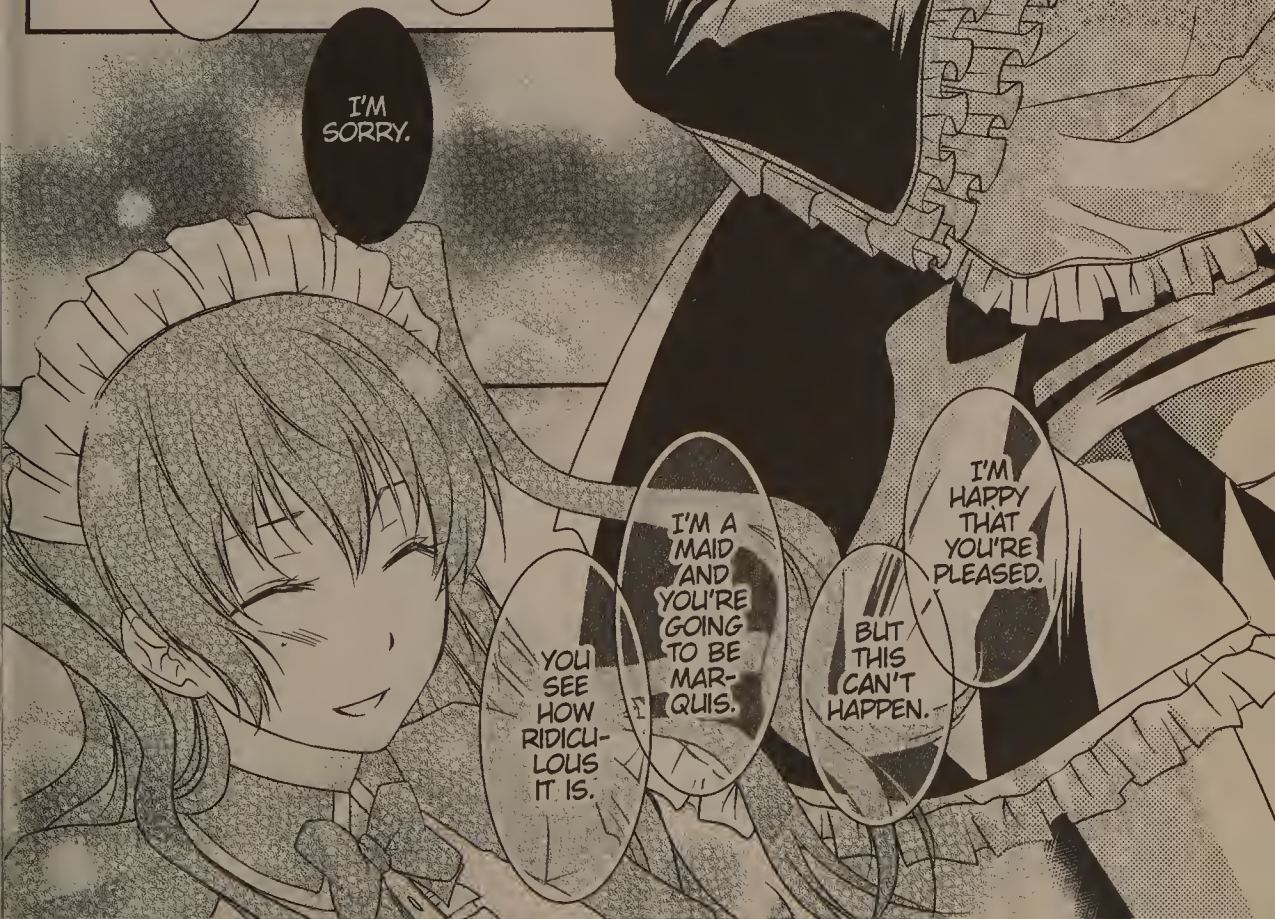
SHEILA
?

EVEN IF
I AM
PREGNANT
...

THERE'S
NO WAY
I CAN
KEEP THE
CHILD!

BUT...

I'M
SORRY.



I'M A
MAID
AND
YOU'RE
GOING
TO BE
MAR-
QUIS.

I'M
HAPPY
THAT
YOU'RE
PLEASED.

BUT
THIS
CAN'T
HAPPEN.

YOU
SEE
HOW
RIDICU-
LOUS
IT IS.



MY LORD...



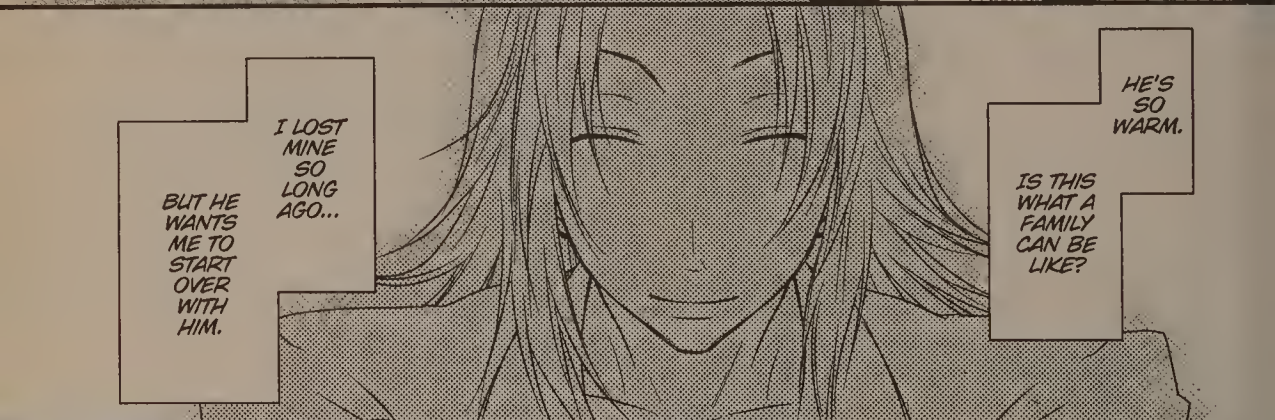
I PROMISE YOU.



BOTH YOU AND OUR CHILD.

I WILL.

I'LL PROTECT YOU.



BUT HE WANTS ME TO START OVER WITH HIM.

I LOST MINE SO LONG AGO...

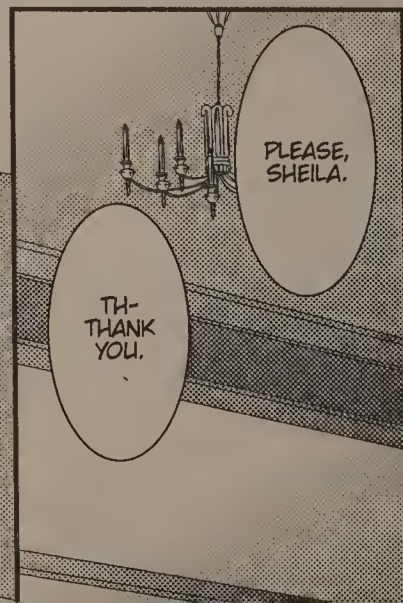
IS THIS WHAT A FAMILY CAN BE LIKE?

HE'S SO WARM.



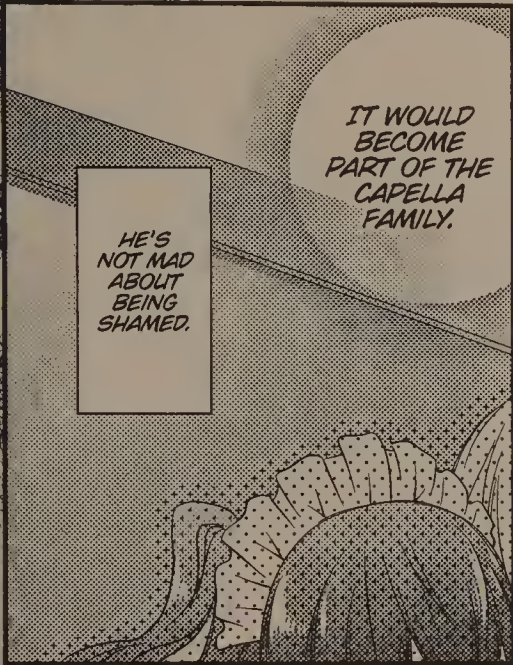
I CAN'T... MAKE ANY DECISION RIGHT NOW.

THAT'S FINE, OF COURSE! PLEASE THINK IT OVER!



PLEASE, SHEILA.

TH-THANK YOU.



HE'S
NOT MAD
ABOUT
BEING
SHAMED.

IT WOULD
BECOME
PART OF THE
CAPELLA
FAMILY.

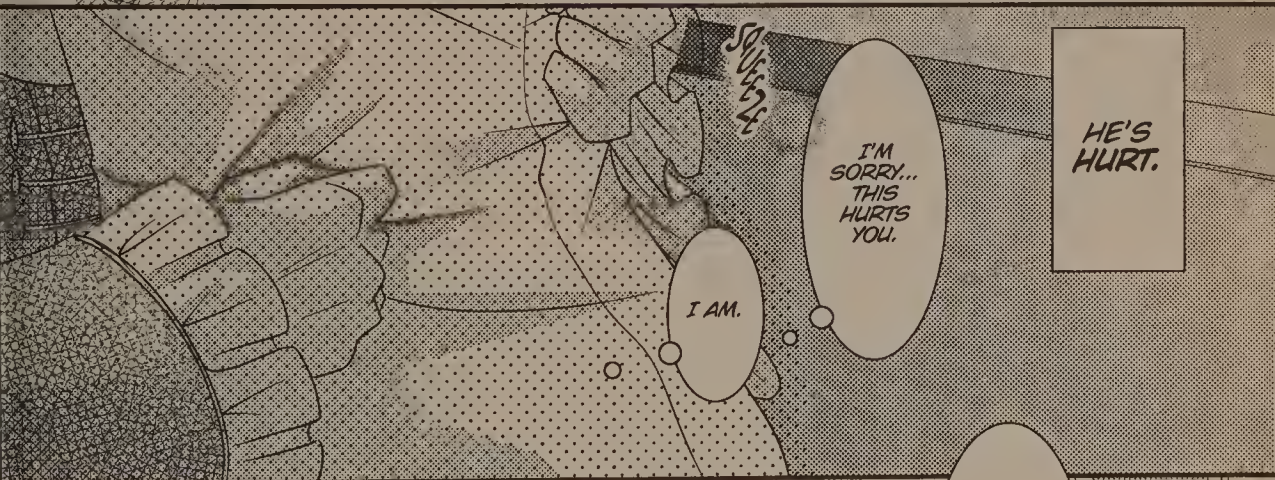
THIS
CHILD
MAY BE
TROUBLE
FOR YOU.

BUT
FOR
ME...

OH.

PLEASE
DON'T
SPIT SUCH
TERRIBLE
WORDS.

??



I'M
SORRY...
THIS
HURTS
YOU.

HE'S
HURT.

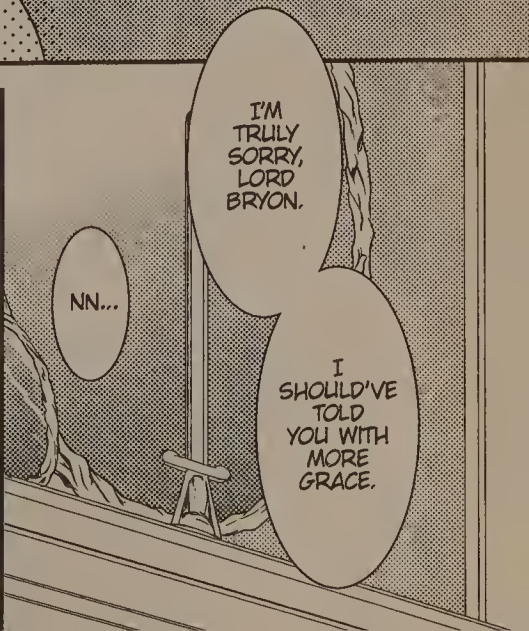
I AM.



PLEASE.

REFLECT
ON HOW
DAMAGING
THIS
WOULD
BE FOR
YOU.

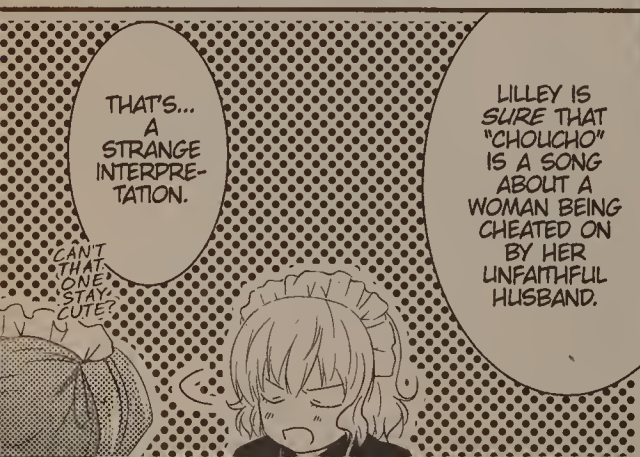
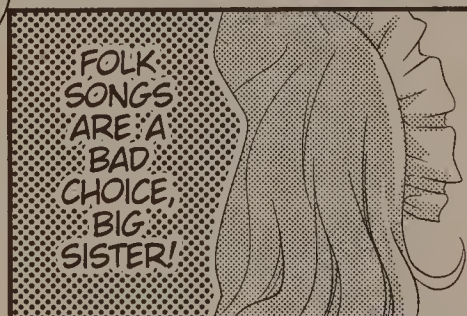
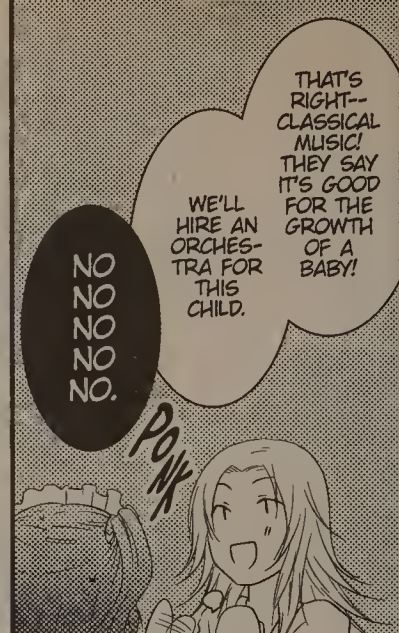
NO.



I'M
TRULY
SORRY,
LORD
BRYON.

NN...

I
SHOULD'VE
TOLD
YOU WITH
MORE
GRACE.



MMMMMPH...

HE'S
SO
PATIENT.

TAKE
THE
TIME
YOU
NEED.

BUT
ONLY
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
TRYING
SO
HARD.

LILLEY
WILL
FORGIVE
YOU.

AS SHE
SAID,
LILLEY!

WE
DIDN'T...
MEAN
TO!

YOU TWO
ARE
TERRIBLE.

AS IF
LILLEY
WASN'T
RIGHT
HERE...!

I'M SO
EXCITED...

A BOY
OR A
GIRL?!

Tough

I'LL
HAVE TO
KEEP
LILLEY
FROM
STEALING
YOU.

THAT'S
THE LEAST
OF OUR
WORRIES.

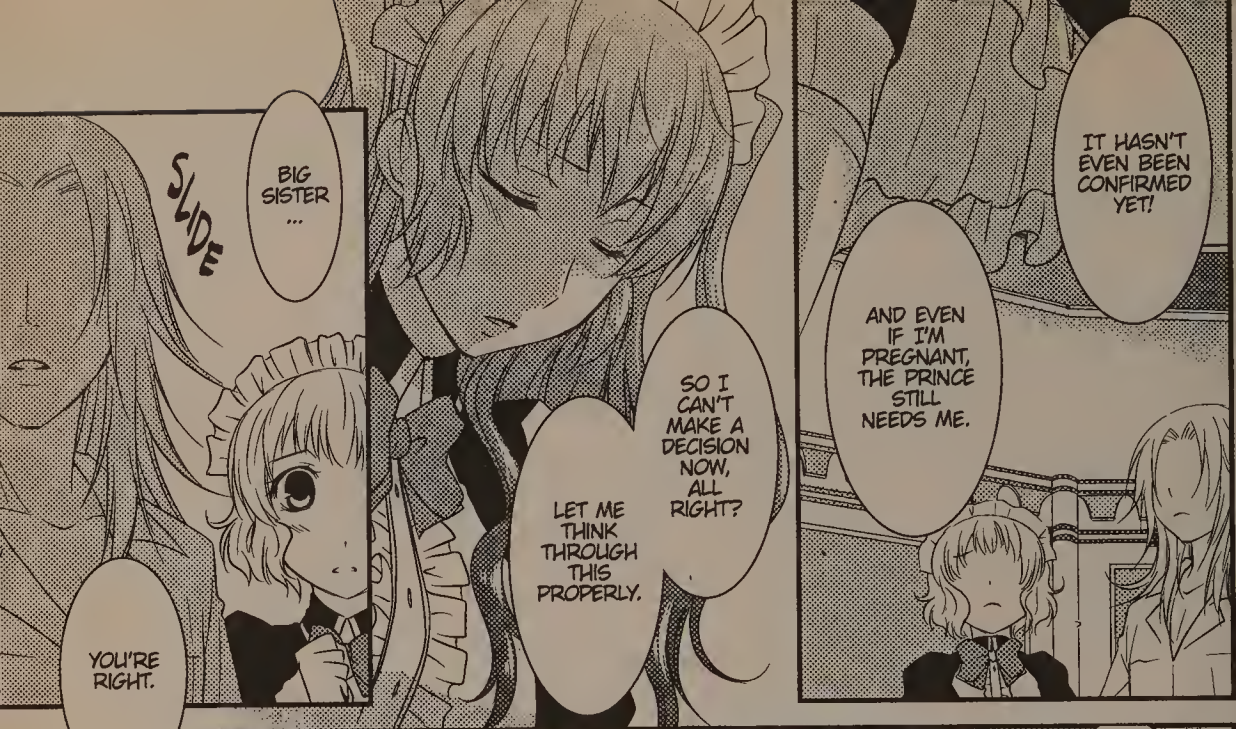
TEE
HEE!

I
HAVEN'T
DECIDED!

SHE'S
CLAIM-
ING
OWN-
ERSHIP!

WITH THIS,
BIG SISTER
WILL FINALLY
BECOME A
PART OF THE
CAPELLA
FAMILY!!
♡♡

YOU'RE
GETTING
AHEAD OF
YOURSELF!



SLIDE

BIG
SISTER
...

YOU'RE
RIGHT.

LET ME
THINK
THROUGH
THIS
PROPERLY.

SO I
CAN'T
MAKE A
DECISION
NOW,
ALL
RIGHT?

AND EVEN
IF I'M
PREGNANT,
THE PRINCE
STILL
NEEDS ME.

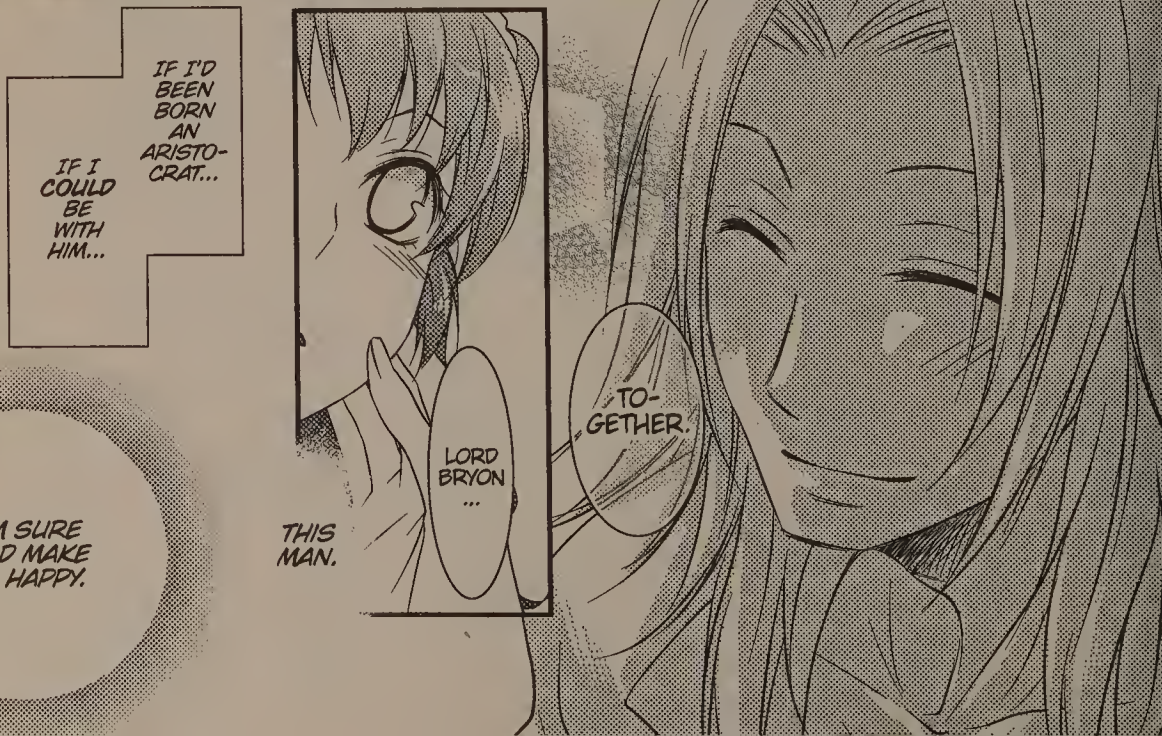
IT HASN'T
EVEN BEEN
CONFIRMED
YET!



STRIKE

THERE'S A
LOT TO
CONSIDER.

WE CAN
THINK
IT OVER
CARE-
FULLY.



IF I
COULD
BE
WITH
HIM...

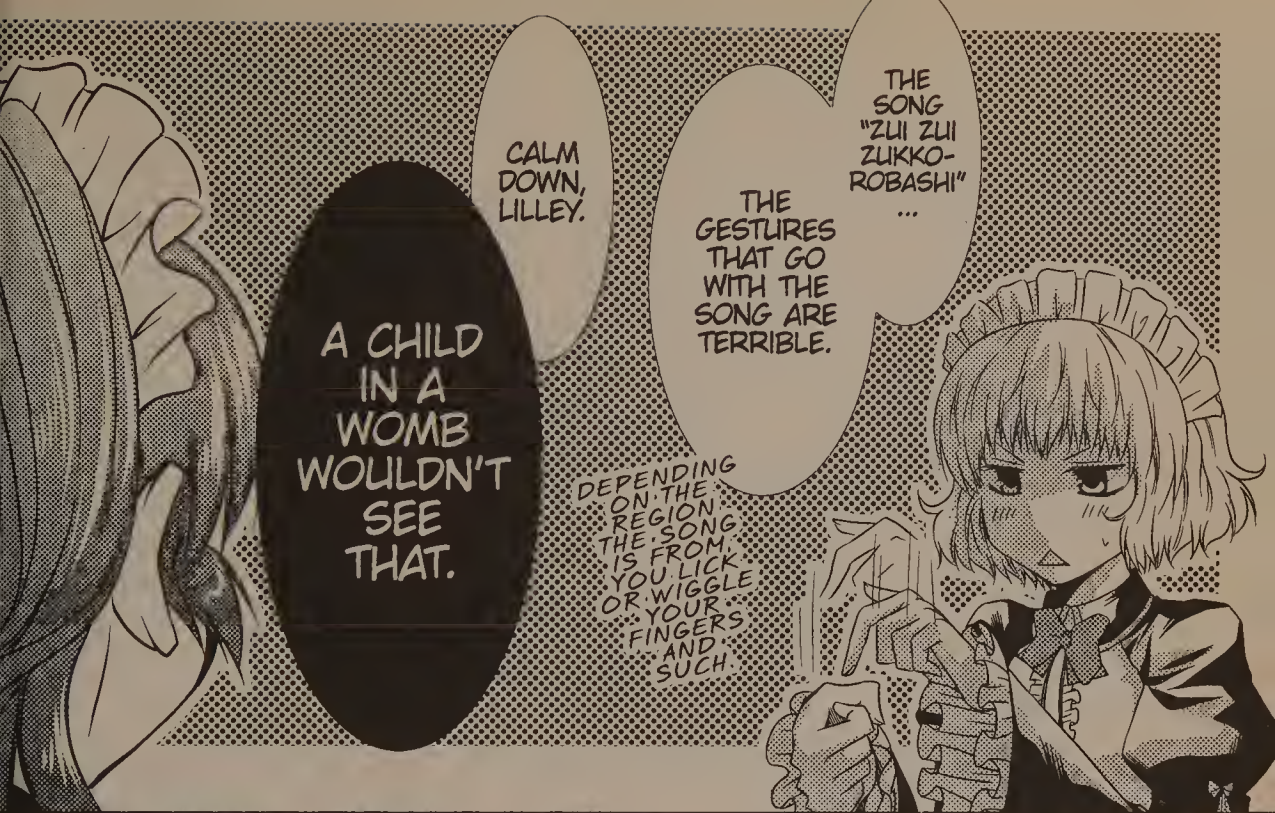
IF I'D
BEEN
BORN
AN
ARISTO-
CRAT...

I'M SURE
HE'D MAKE
ME HAPPY.

THIS
MAN.

LORD
BRYON
...

TO-
GETHER.



CALM
DOWN,
LILLEY.

A CHILD
IN A
WOMB
WOULDN'T
SEE
THAT.

DEPENDING
ON THE
REGION
THE SONG
IS FROM
YOU LICK
OR WIGGLE
YOUR
FINGERS
AND SUCH.

THE
GESTURES
THAT GO
WITH THE
SONG ARE
TERRIBLE.

THE
SONG
"ZUI ZUI
ZUKKO-
ROBASHI!"
...



HUSH!

I STILL
MIGHT
NOT BE
PREGNANT.

THANK
YOU?

NOW
I
SEE.

HEH...

EEK!

CLING

SO
LILLEY
WILL PLAY
WITH THE
BABY ALL
THE TIME
INSTEAD!
♡



THAT'S
ENOUGH!

THAT I
ALSO
CAN'T
DO THIS
BECAUSE
OF
PRINCE
EDVARD?

HOW
CAN I
REMIN
HER...

LILLEY
WILL
ELIMINATE
ANYTHING
IN BIG
SISTER'S
WAY!

FINE,
JUST...
PUT
DOWN
YOUR
WEAPON.

TELL
HER
THAT
AGAIN!

GOOD,
LILLEY!

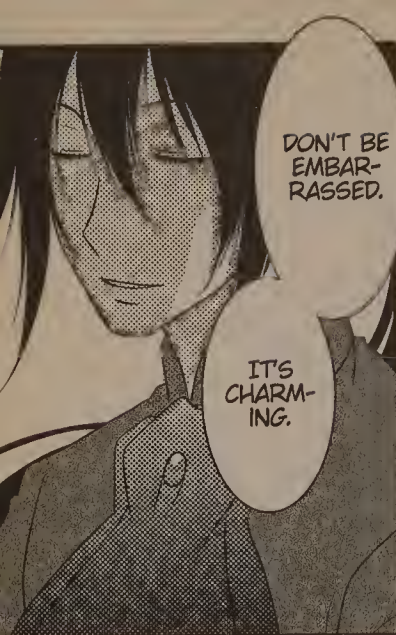
PREGNANT
BRIDES
AREN'T
UNUSUAL
ANYMORE!

NOW
MOVE
MARRIAGE!

MARRY
IMMEDIATELY
IF YOU'RE
HAVING
A CHILD!

YOU
MUST!

BUT I
STILL
HAVEN'T
...
I
NEED
TO
SEE A
DOCTOR.



DON'T BE EMBARRASSED.

IT'S CHARMING.

I SEE.
SO EVEN YOU GET SCARED.

I'LL TELL HIM EITHER WAY...

SHUT UP!



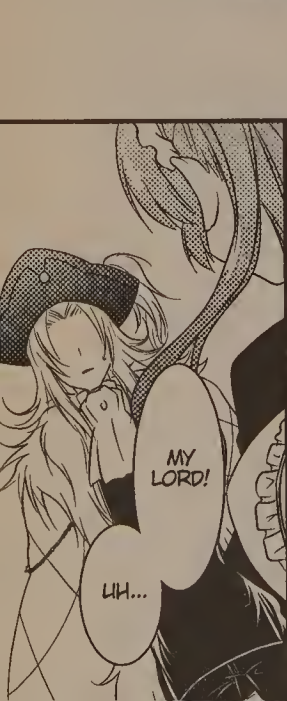
I GET SCARED WHEN I START TO THINK LIKE THAT.

I WANT TO KNOW AHEAD OF TIME SO I CAN PREPARE MYSELF.



DOES LORD BRYON HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT?

AND YOU'VE BEEN SOFTER AND MORE... HUMAN LATELY.



MY LORD!

UH...

SHEILA!

HUH?



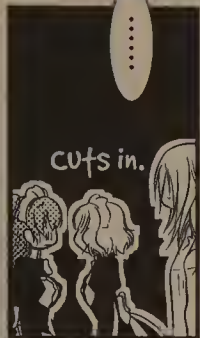
SIGH

KA-CHUNK

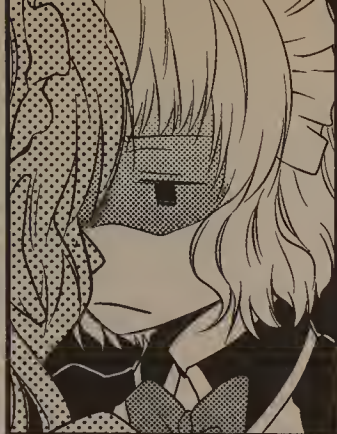
JUST EXAMINE ME!

SURE.

RIGHT THIS WAY.



Cuts in.

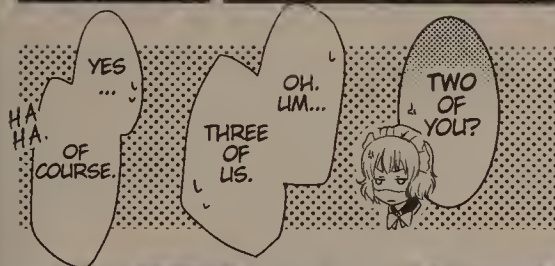


THE TWO OF US WILL THINK IT--

BUT THAT ...

ISN'T REALITY.

THANK YOU.



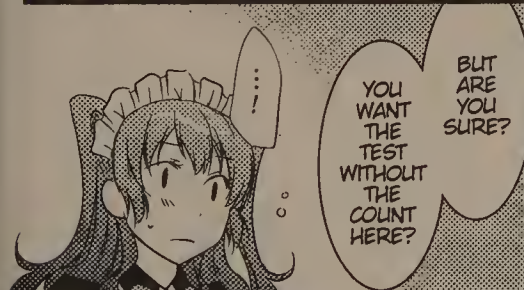
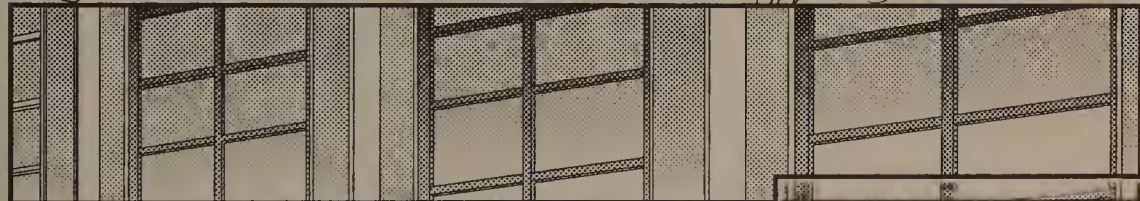
YES ...

HA HA. OF COURSE.

OH. UM...

THREE OF US.

TWO OF YOU?



YOU WANT THE TEST WITHOUT THE COUNT HERE?

BUT ARE YOU SURE?

OH.

I CAN EXAMINE YOU RIGHT AWAY FOR THAT.



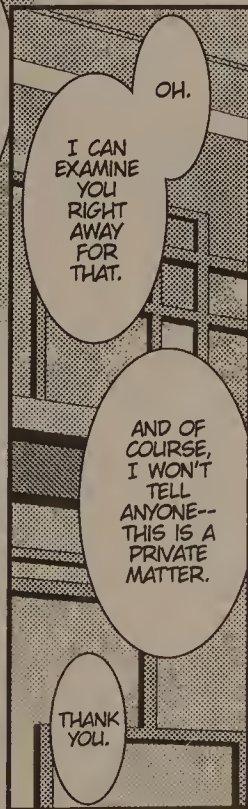
WELL ...

HE LOOKED SO HAPPY.



SNEAK

I SAID THAT, BUT...



AND OF COURSE, I WON'T TELL ANYONE-- THIS IS A PRIVATE MATTER.

THANK YOU.



WHY ARE YOU WHISPERING?

YOU SEEM SUSPICIOUS.

RAM-BURES.

SNEAK

SNEAK

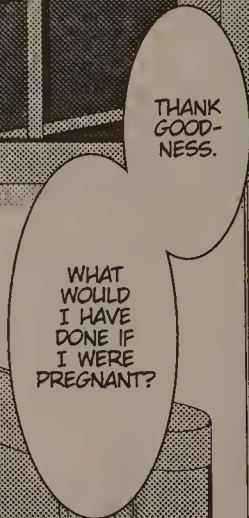
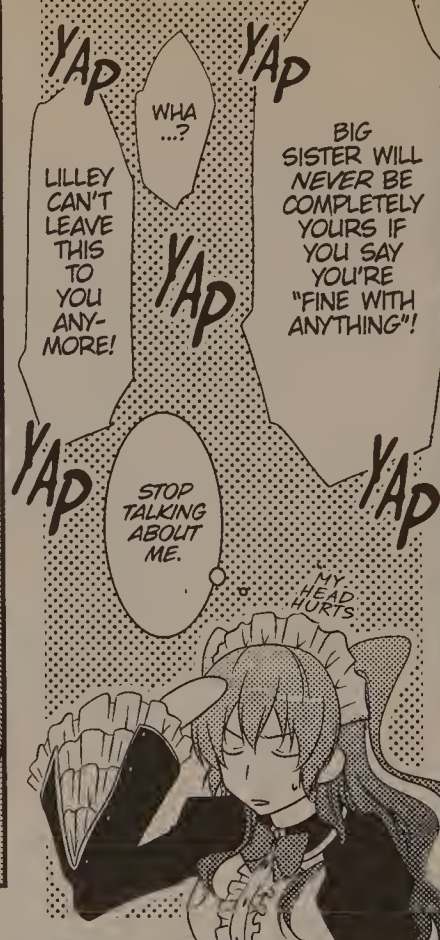


I CAN'T QUIT WORK RIGHT AWAY.

IF I AM PREGNANT ...

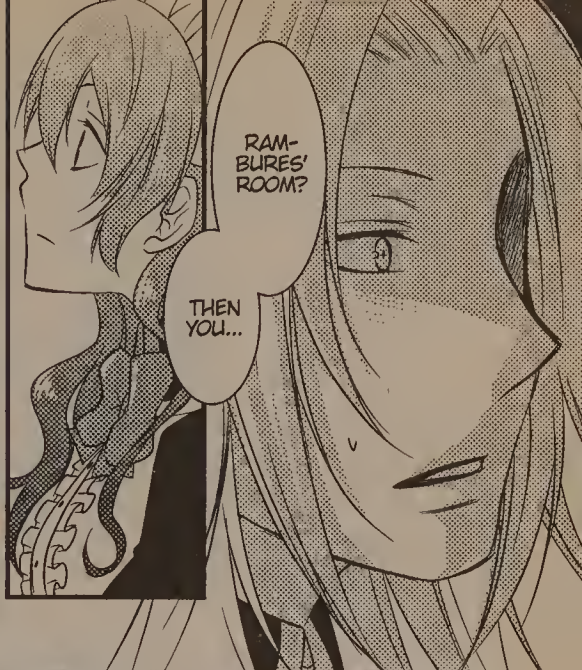
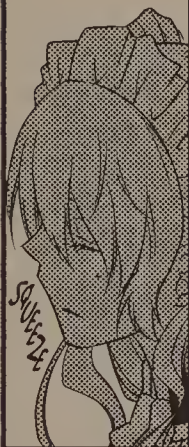


HE'LL BE DISAPPOINTED IF I'M NOT PREGNANT.



LORD
BRYON.

WE
NEED
TO
TALK.



LILLEY
HEARD,
BIG
BROTHER!

WE
AGREED
WE'D
THINK IT
OVER
TOGETHER!

AND,
SHEILA!

TURN

YES,
I'M...
SORRY.

SO
THIS
IS
FINE!

I WAS
PLANNING
TO BE
SUP-
PORTIVE
ABOUT
THIS
EITHER
WAY.

EX-
CUSES!

GOOD
THING
THIS
ROOM
WAS
CLEARED
OUT.

I'M
TRYING
TO
WORK.

THE NEXT
IN LINE
FOR THE
CAPELLA
FAMILY
CAN'T
EVEN MAKE
ONE
BABY!

WATCH
YOUR
MOUTH!

YOU
MAKE
ME
SOUND
IMPOTENT!

WHUNK

AT
THAT
TIME.

WHEN
YOU
WELCOMED
ME WITH
OPEN
ARMS...

IT'S
HARD
TO
PUT IT
INTO
WORDS.

BUT
MY
HEART
FELT
WARMTH.

AND
I WAS
TRULY
HAPPY.

EVEN
THOUGH I
CAN'T
FORGIVE
YOU.

DON'T
YOU
DARE.

I'M
JOKING.

Jumps
away

PERHAPS
LILLEY IS
RIGHT.
I COULD
BE
MORE--

BUT THIS
MEANS I
CAN MAKE
A MISTAKE
WITHOUT
YOU
NOTICING.

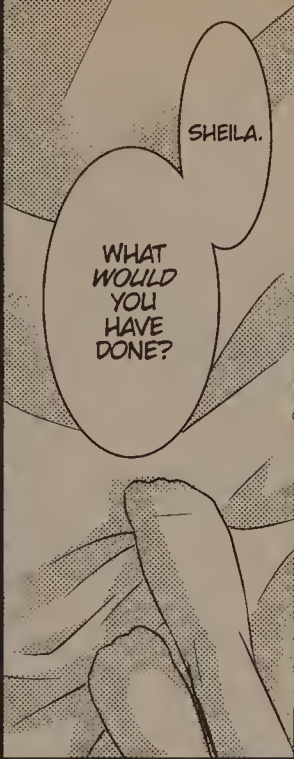
HUH?

AGREED.

YES.
NOW
THAT
I THINK
OF IT,
I WOULD
NEVER
MAKE
THAT
MISTAKE
IN BED.



...

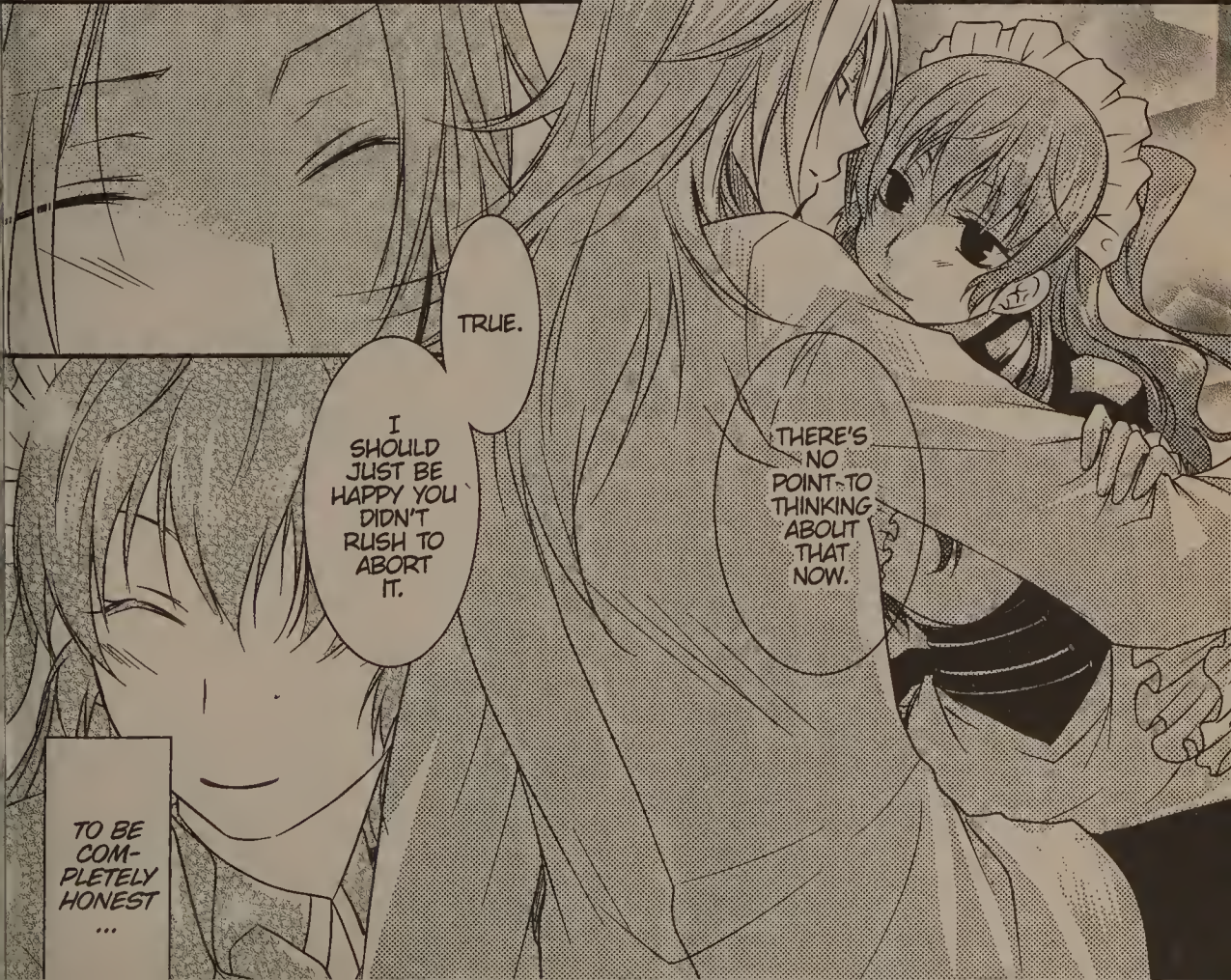


SHEILA.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?



BUT I'M STILL DISAPPOINTED.

MY LORD...



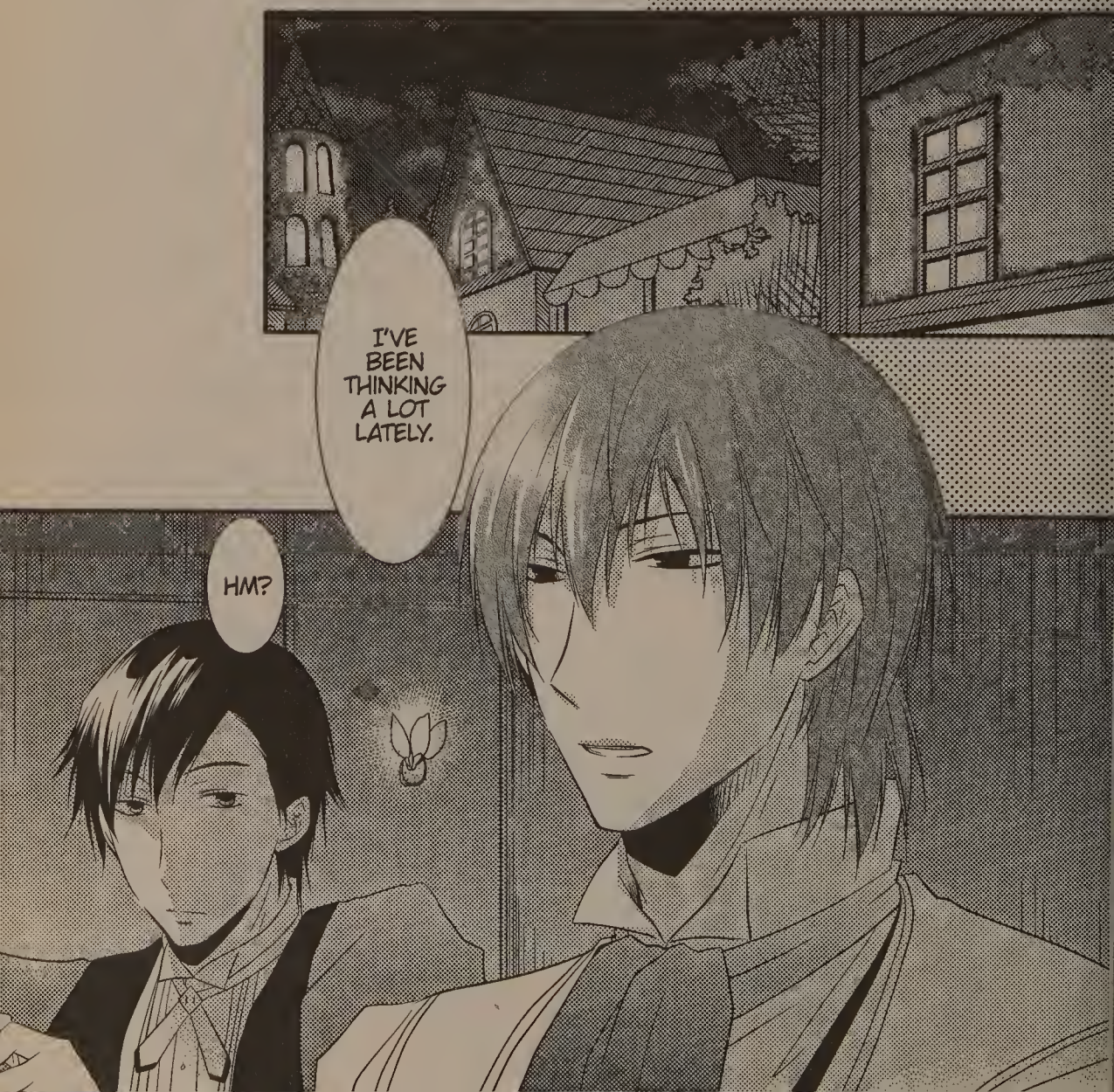
TRUE.

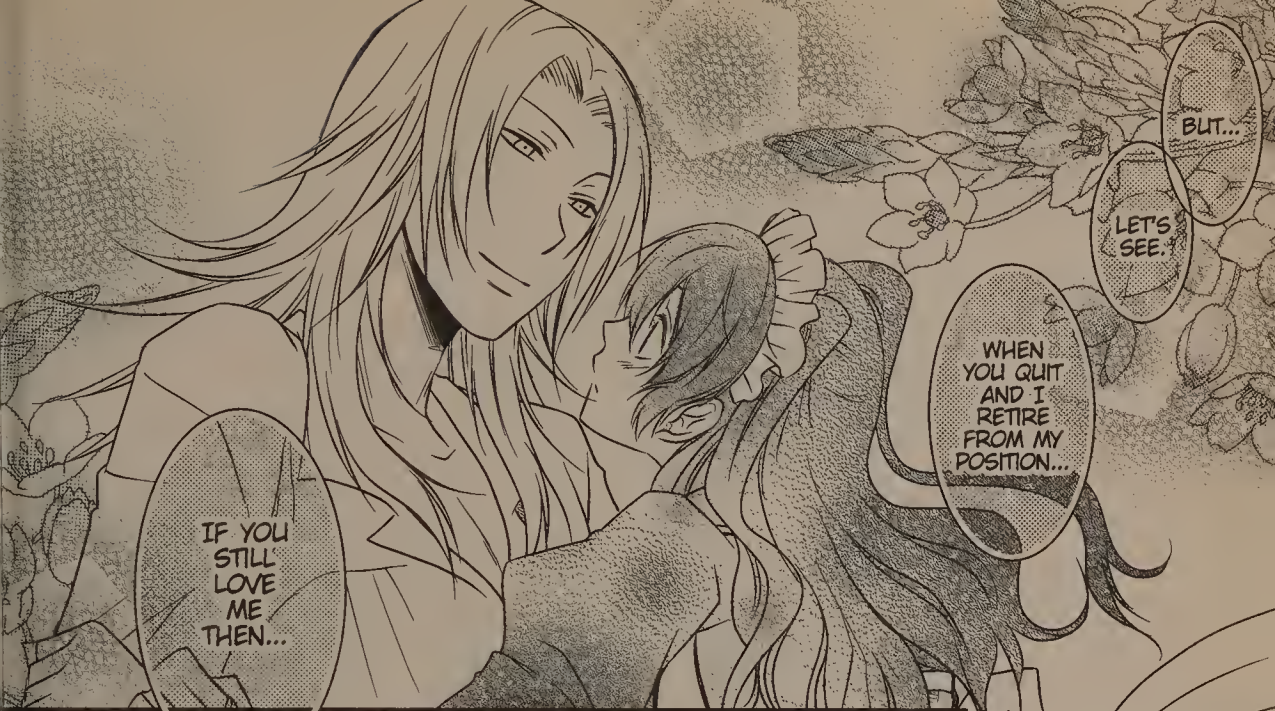
I SHOULD JUST BE HAPPY YOU DIDN'T RUSH TO ABORT IT.

THERE'S NO POINT TO THINKING ABOUT THAT NOW.

TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST ...

A Small Conflict in Love Simulation Games That Use Affection Points.



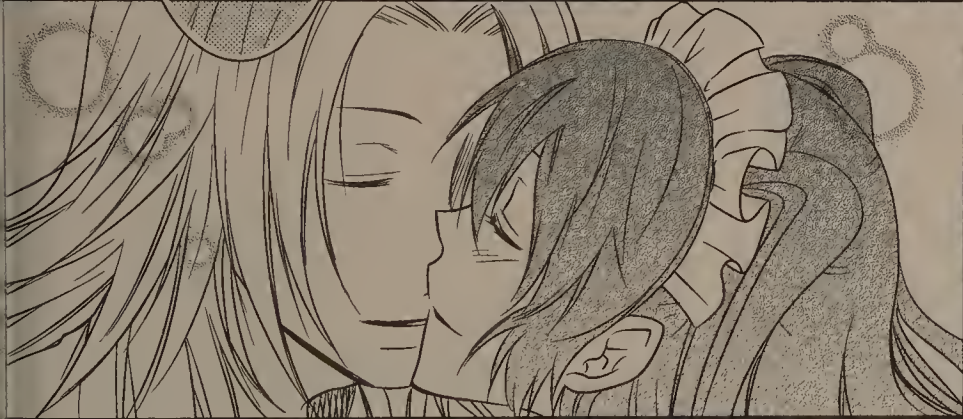


IF YOU
STILL
LOVE
ME
THEN...

WHEN
YOU QUIT
AND I
RETIRE
FROM MY
POSITION...

LET'S
SEE.

BUT...



I DON'T
BE
CRUDE.

I'M
TRYING
TO SAY
THAT WE
SHOULD
LIVE
TOGETHER.

BUT YOU'LL
PROBABLY
BE OUT
OF SEED
BY THEN.

SHUKEE

I
STILL
CAN'T
SAY...

I'D
LOVE
TO.



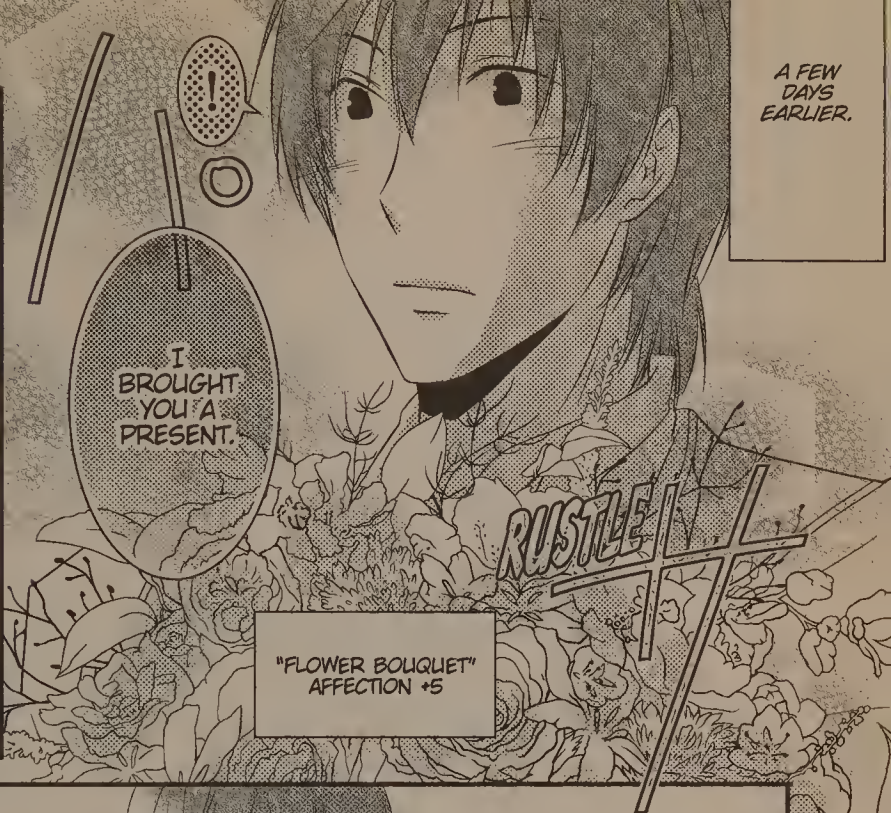


TH-
THANK
YOU.

THIS
IS
NICE.

HEH.

I KNOW
YOU LIKE
THIS
KIND OF
THING.



I
BROUGHT
YOU A
PRESENT.

"FLOWER BOUQUET"
AFFECTION +5

RUSTLE

A FEW
DAYS
EARLIER.

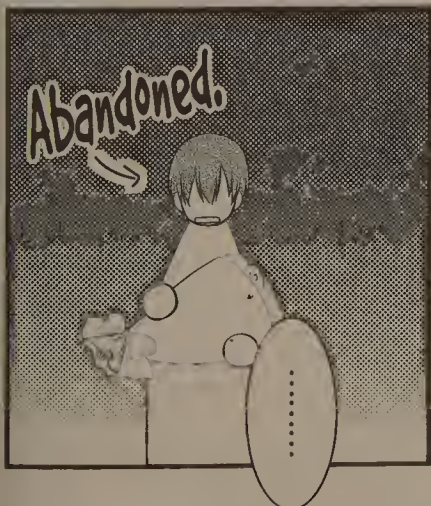


HEY,
SHEILA!

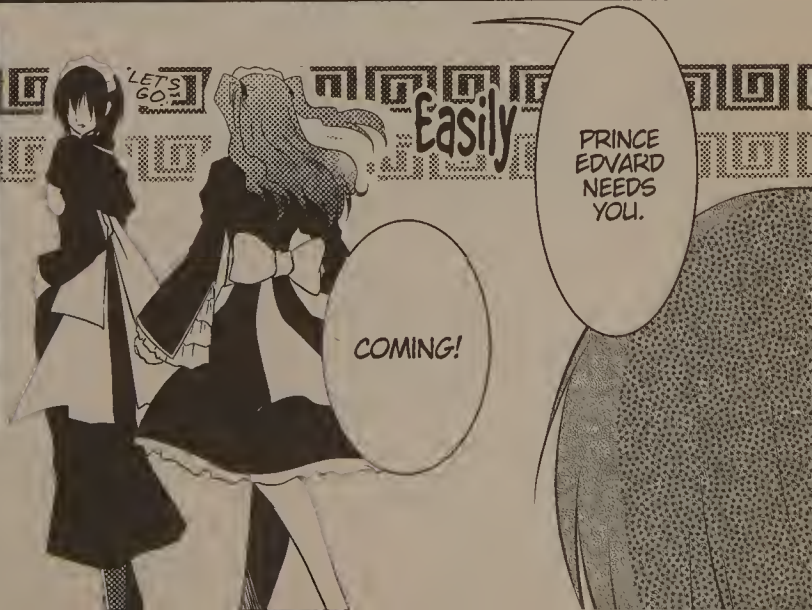
ER...

BY THE
WAY,
IF YOU'RE
FREE
TONIGHT...

CAN
I
REPAY
YOU
WITH
DINNER?



Abandoned.



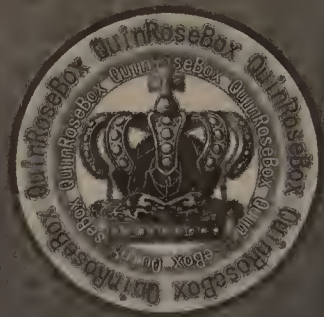
LET'S
GO

Easily

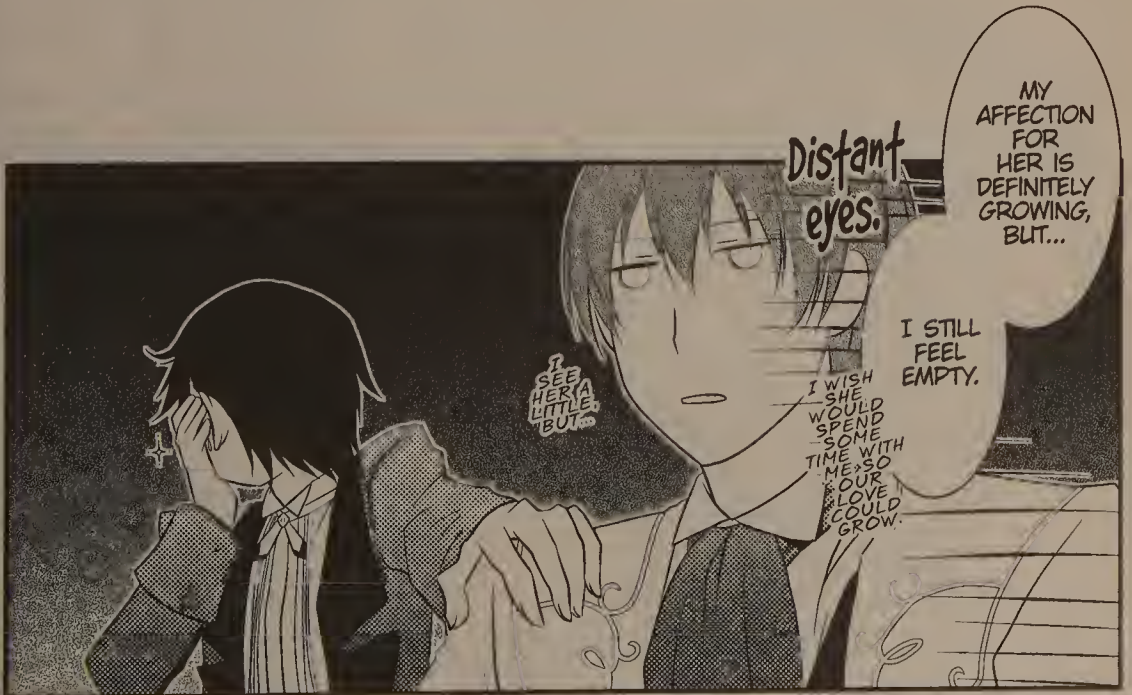
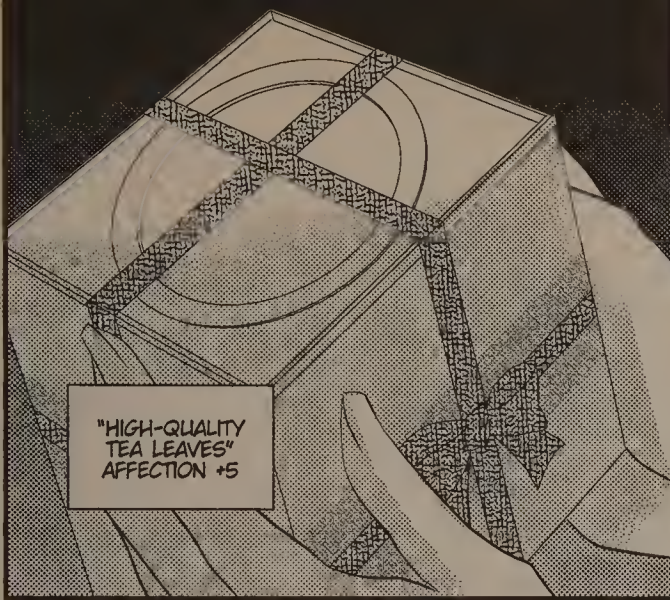
PRINCE
EDVARD
NEEDS
YOU.

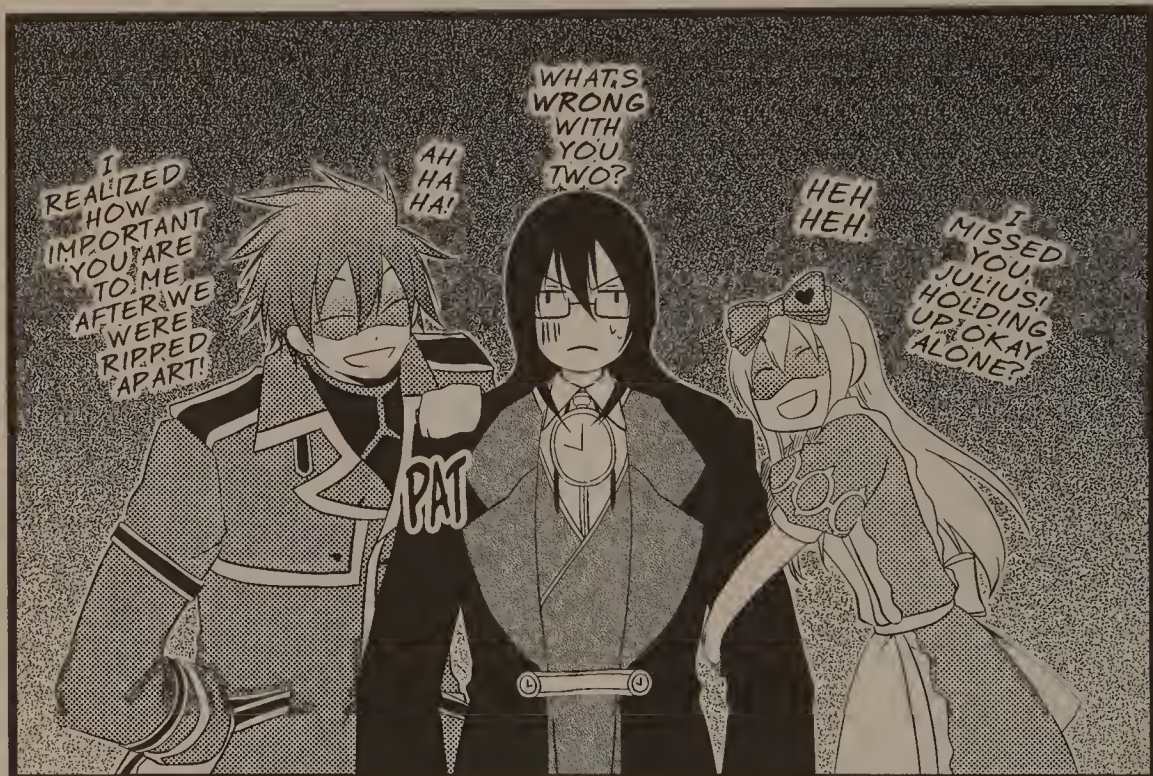
COMING!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



QuintroseBox





IF THEY WENT TO THE COUNTRY OF JOKER WITH THIS STORY'S SETTING,
THINGS WOULD GET DANGEROUS (FOR JULIUS).

THANK YOU
SO MUCH!

Thank you to so many people!

You've really taken care of me.
QuinRose-sama

Thank you for your help!
Assistant-sama

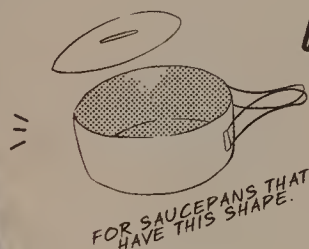
Thank you for everything.
Friends and Acquaintances

And most importantly,
everyone who picks up this
book is supporting me.
The Readers



AND NOW FOR AN ACE OF HEARTS OUTTAKE...

WHO
CARES
?!



THE REASON
NISSIN CHICKEN
FLAVORED RAMEN
NOODLES CHANGED
FROM SQUARE TO
ROUND IS SO THAT
THEY CAN FIT IN
A ROUND POT
WITHOUT BEING
BROKEN.

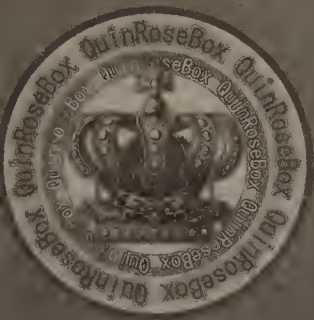
THAT'S
WHAT I
HEARD.
I WONDER
IF IT'S
TRUE.





ZERO'S FAMILIAR

SPECIAL PREVIEW



COMING SOON

JULY 2013

Alice in the Country of Clover:
Cheshire Cat Waltz Vol. 5

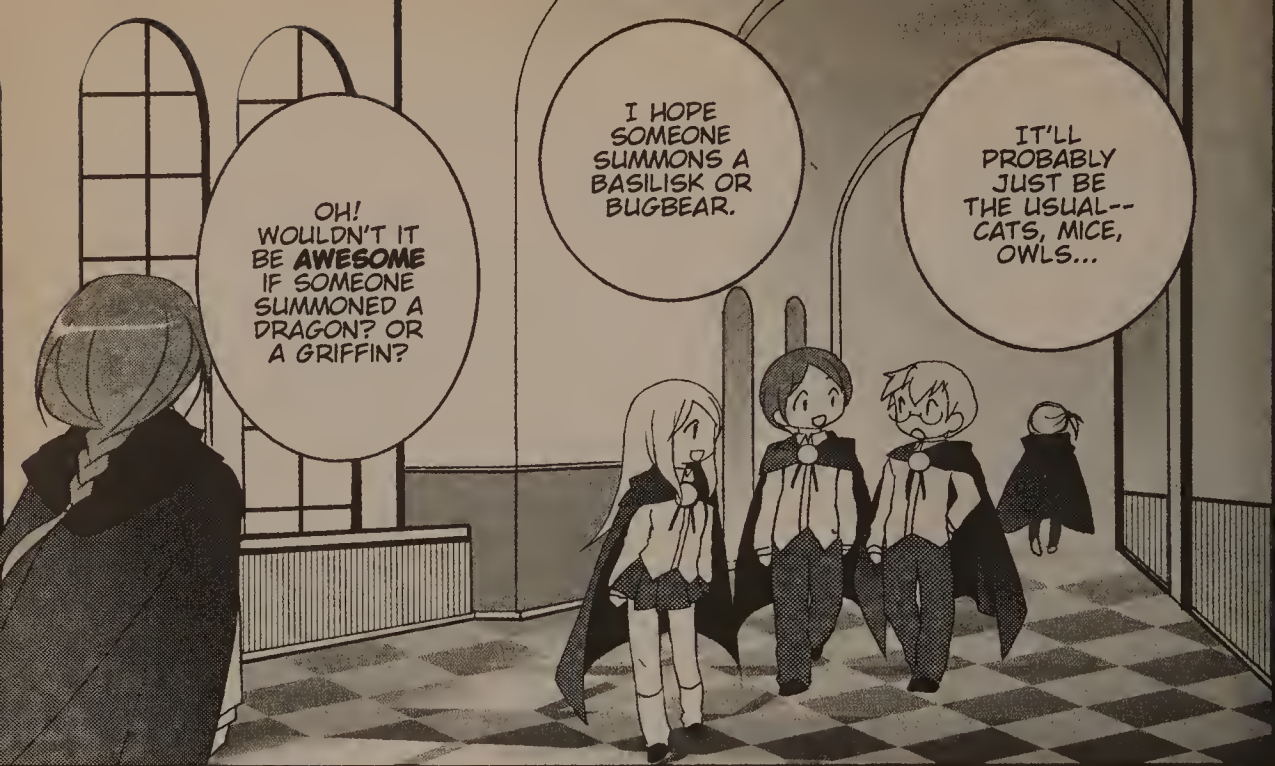
AUGUST 2013

Alice in the Country of Clover:
The Clockmaker's Story

Crimson Empire Vol. 2

SEPTEMBER 2013

Alice in the Country of Clover:
Cheshire Cat Waltz Vol. 6



OH!
WOULDN'T IT
BE **AWESOME**
IF SOMEONE
SUMMONED A
DRAGON? OR
A GRIFFIN?

I HOPE
SOMEONE
SUMMONS A
BASILISK OR
BUGBEAR.

IT'LL
PROBABLY
JUST BE
THE USUAL--
CATS, MICE,
OWLS...

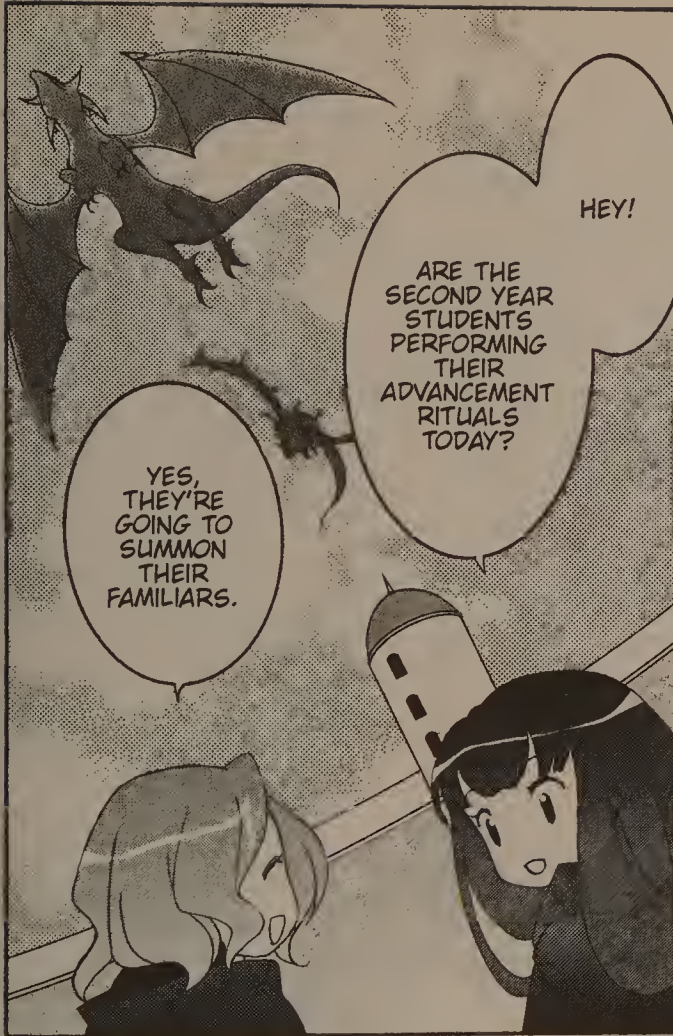


YEAH, THE
FAILURE!

ZERO...!

OH, I KNOW!
THAT VALLIÈRE
GIRL WITH
THE HORRIBLE
GRADES!

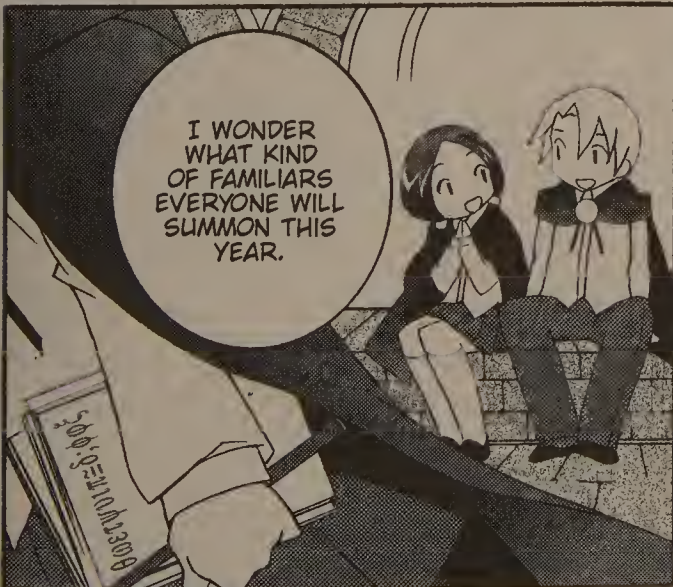
I HEARD
THERE'S A
PROBLEM
STUDENT IN
THAT CLASS...



YES,
THEY'RE
GOING TO
SUMMON
THEIR
FAMILIARS.

HEY!

ARE THE
SECOND YEAR
STUDENTS
PERFORMING
THEIR
ADVANCEMENT
RITUALS
TODAY?



I WONDER
WHAT KIND
OF FAMILIARS
EVERYONE WILL
SUMMON THIS
YEAR.



OH NO,
THE
ENTRANCE
IS CLOS-
ING! WHAT
SHOULD I
DO?!

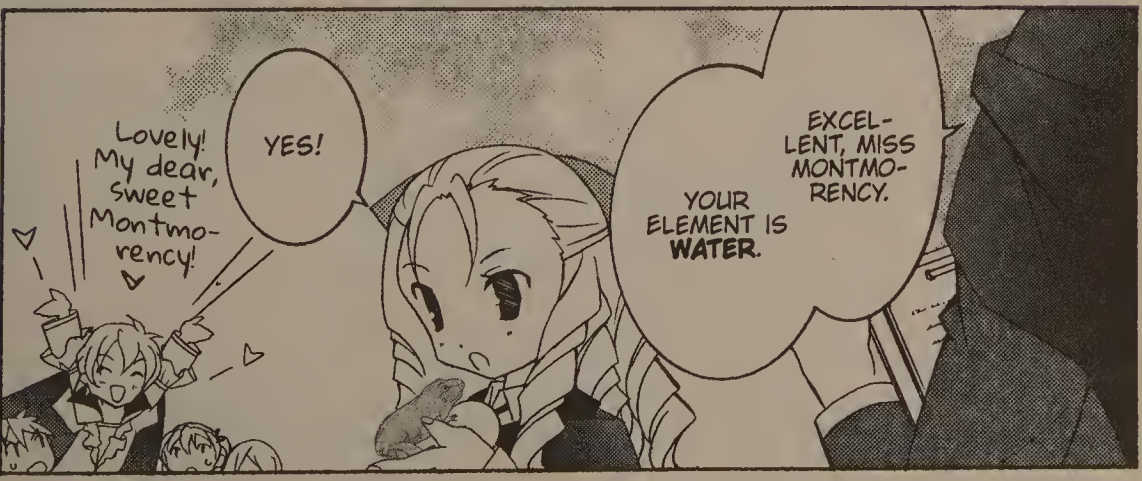
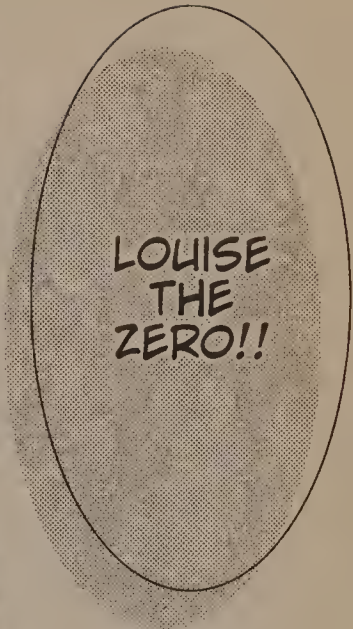
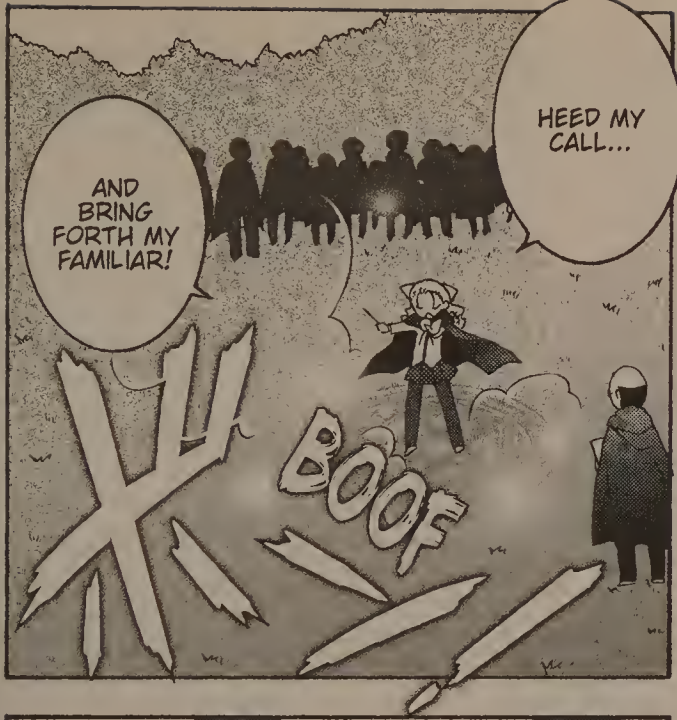
LOUISE
FRANÇOISE
LE BLANC
DE LA
VALLIÈRE.

LOUISE...!

AND NOW,
THE FINAL
STUDENT...

HERE!





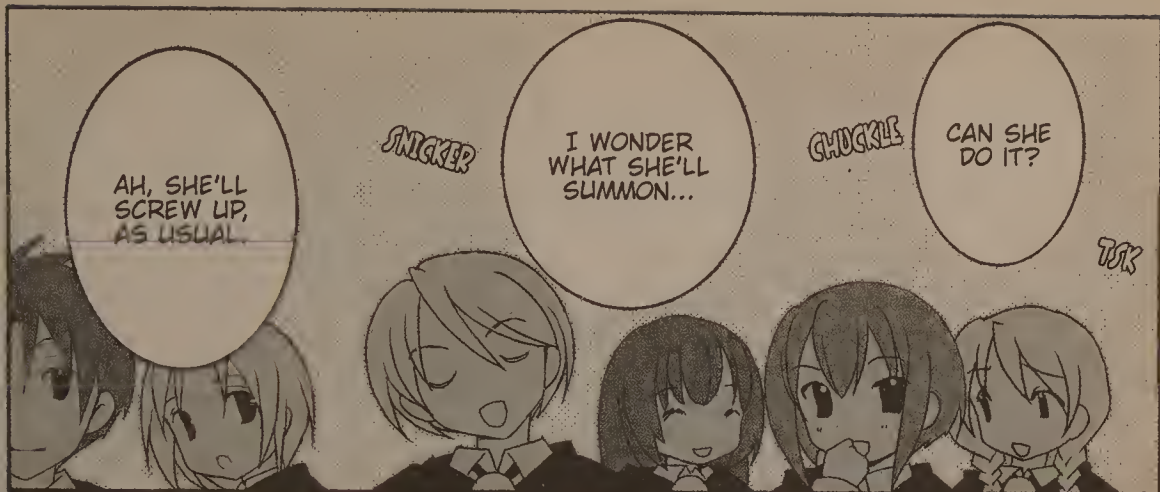


PENTAGON
OF THE FIVE
ELEMENTS...

MY NAME IS
LOUISE FRANÇOISE
LE BLANC DE LA
VALLIÈRE.

HEED MY
CALL...

VOOM





WHOOOSH

WHOA!

Eek!

FLASH

OH...

OWWW...!

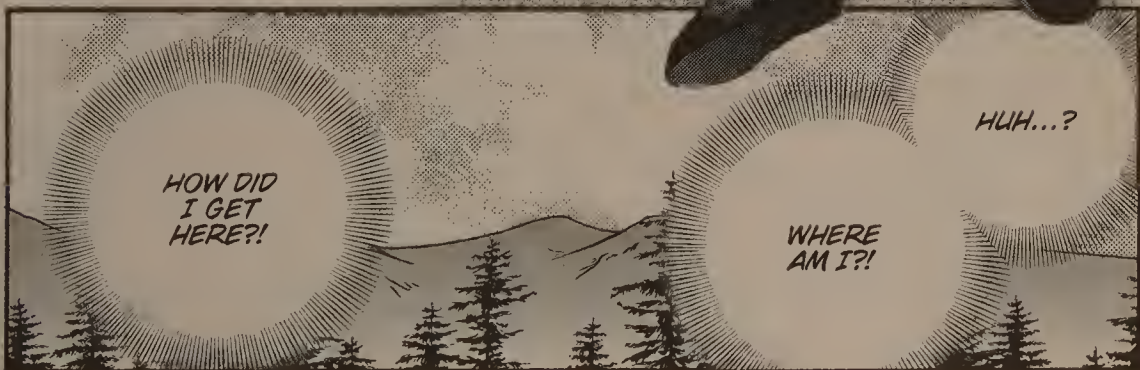


**AND
BRING
FORTH...**

**MY
FAMIL-
IAR!**



WHO ARE
YOU?!



"LOUISE
THE ZERO"
DOES IT
AGAIN!!

Ha
ha
ha!

SHE
SUMMONED
A PEASANT
AS HER
FAMILIAR!

LOOK!

Bwa

ha
ha
ha!

A
PEASANT!

TWITCH

?!

JUST A LITTLE
MISTAKE! I
MESSED UP THE
INCANTATION,
THAT'S ALL.

This is
thing....?

THIS...
THING...
CAN'T
POSSIBLY
BE MY
FAMILIAR!

I'LL
JUST
HAVE
TO TRY
AGAIN!

I DO
NOT!

Be
quiet!

I DON'T THINK
SO. YOU ALWAYS
SCREW UP BIG
TIME.

"LITTLE
MISTAKE"?

Continued in
Zero's Familiar
Omnibus 1-3!

NOD

NOD



SAITO
HIRAGA.

I'M...
UHH...
I'M...



WHAT ARE
YOU **DOING**
HERE?!

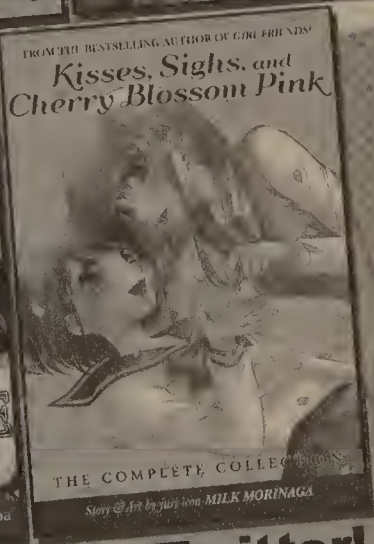
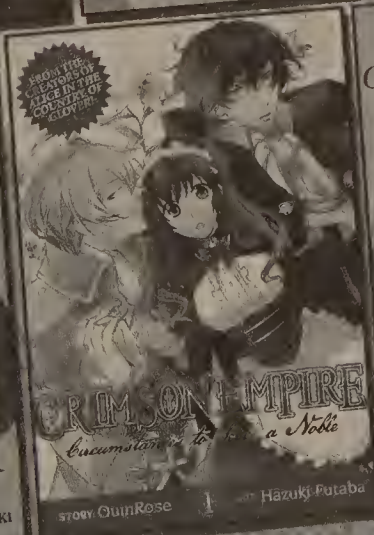
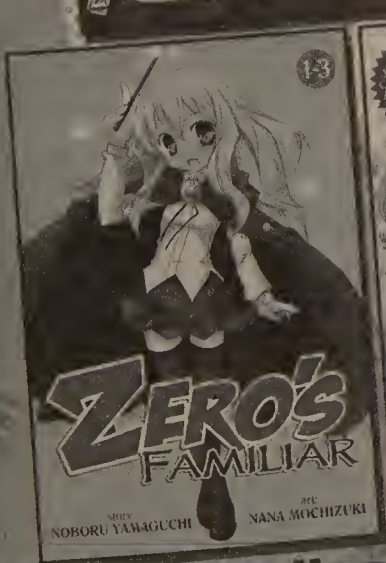
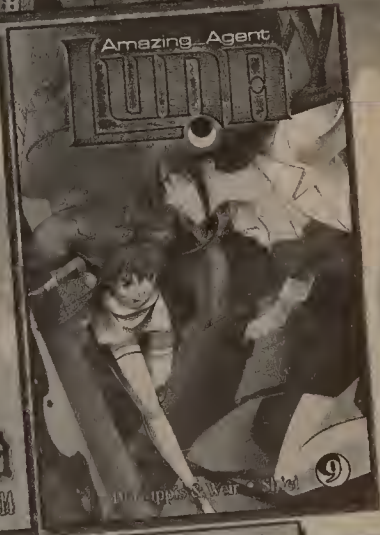
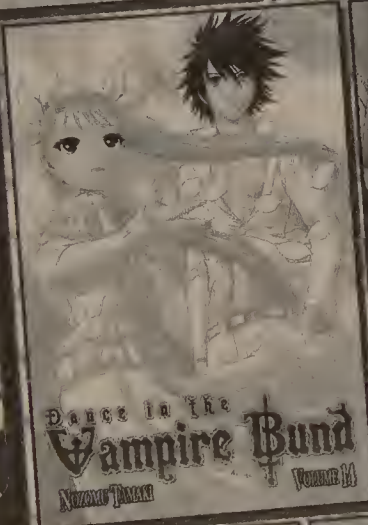
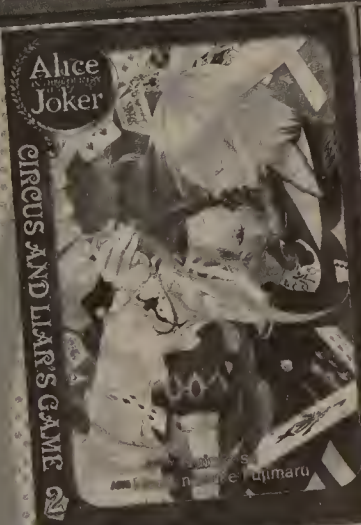
I DON'T
CARE WHAT
YOUR **NAME** IS,
PEASANT!

PFFT

HOW IN THE
WORLD DID
SHE MANAGE
THAT...?

UNBELIEV-
ABLE...

Experience all that
SEVEN SEAS has to offer!



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**'YOU'RE TO
SOMEONE LI
TAKE ADVANTA**

NAPERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY



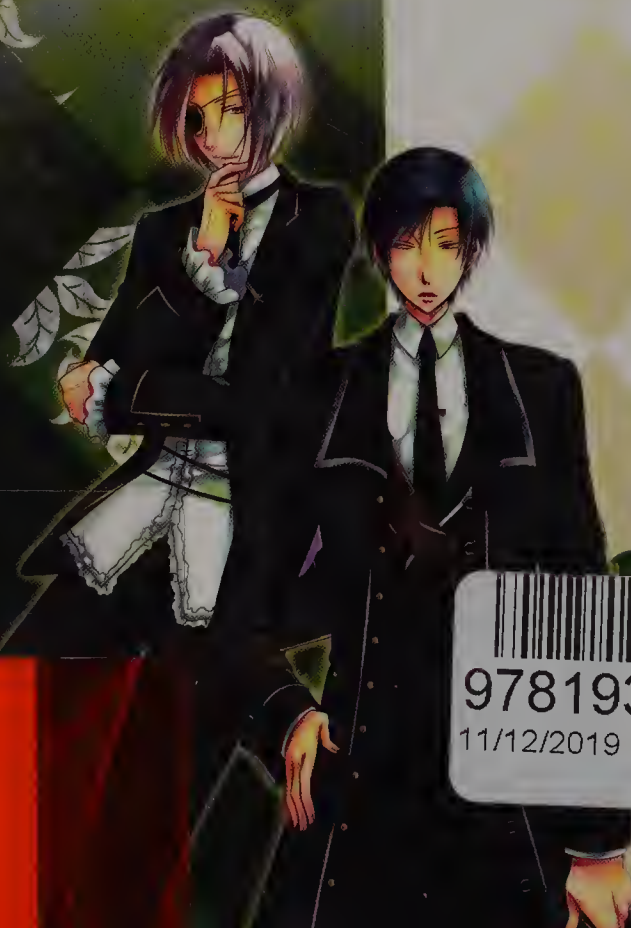
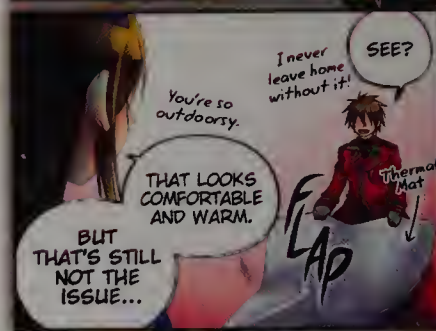
3 1 3 1 8 0 3 2 4 3 0 0 2 6

A love between the two... and
Alice is a journey u... a violent
terror—even by W... ed
standards—but he... ective
and fond of Alice. ... a rebel
who challenges the rules, and understands
the darkness inside him. But if Ace is a lost
soul and Alice tries to guide him, will either
of them ever find a way out?

If Wonderland is a game of hide-and-seek...
be careful what you find.



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Seven Seas

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